RS nomination: SC jolt to Meenakshi

P11

DH on Saturday

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The Power of Good

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Blockbuster IPO raises more than $75 billion

P13

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Bengaluru Saturday, June 13, 2026 Pages 32 Vol 79 No 163 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

PM poem

For fans he is Dhurandhar
Rahul calls him Surrender.
He played the game
Gave Nehru the blame—
The name is Modi Narendar

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Sindhu enters Australian Open Super 500 semis

P17

Elephants and their keepers

The Asian elephant is Karnataka's pride. These gentle giants carry the ceremonial Golden Howdah during the Mysuru Dasara, and help the forest department manage human-elephant conflict. Today, we explore the lives of the mahouts who train and care for them, while also examining the ethical questions surrounding the elephant-mahout bond.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 15

After Trump says war over, Iran hints at deal

Pak PM says final text of peace deal agreed

DUBAI/TEHRAN/WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

Hours after US President Donald Trump said that a deal to end the war with Iran is nearly complete and is expected to be signed over the weekend in Europe, Iran's foreign minister insisted on Friday that a peace deal with Washington had "never been closer".

A senior US official also voiced optimism that the parties would be "signing this agreement over the next few days".

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country has been a key mediator, confirmed that "a final, agreed-upon text of the peace deal has been reached".

"Peace has never been as close as it is now," Sharif said, while acknowledging "incessant misinformation" surrounding the deal.

Publicly, however, the warring sides' negotiating positions remain far apart, with Iranian state media publishing a breakdown of what was purportedly on the table that stood sharply at odds with Washington's red lines.

Trump has repeatedly insisted that a deal with Iran was all but signed, only for talks to drag on.

The president had repeated that assertion on Thursday, claiming that his country had ended the war with Iran, but on Friday lashed out at Tehran, accusing it of negotiating in bad faith following the Iranian media reports.

A site of Israeli strike in Lebanon. Ending the Lebanon war is one of the thorny issues in the US-Iran talks. REUTERS

I don't know if you heard, but we ended the war with Iran today (Thursday), and they have agreed never to have a nuclear weapon, something that we insisted on. That was the whole purpose.

Donald Trump, US President

The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer. Pending its finalisation, the media should refrain from entering speculation about its content.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran's foreign minister

In a social media post, Trump dismissed the Iranian accounts as having "NOTHING to do with the terms that were agreed to, in writing".

"Very dishonourable people to deal with," he continued. "They better get their act together, and FAST!"

But Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, appeared to play down the row. "The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer," he wrote in a social media post, referring to the Pakistani capital that hosted previous US-Iran talks.

"Pending its finalisation, the media should refrain from entering speculation about its content," he added.

▸ Iran, Page 5A

Sensex, Nifty up

BSE Sensex jumped by 1,695 points, while broader NSE Nifty closed above 23,600 on Friday, driven by a fall in crude oil prices and a global stocks rally after Trump declared his country ended the war. Page 13

US envoy summoned

India on Friday summoned the acting US envoy in New Delhi and protested continued attacks by the American Navy on vessels with Indian mariners. Page 11

NMDC in dock for flouting green rules

Notice to Navaratna firm over Sandur mine violations

DH SPECIAL

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

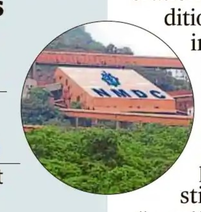
The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has landed in the dock for violation of multiple environmental rules, prompting the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to issue a show-cause notice to the Navaratna company.

The issue pertains to the Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine spread across 1,580.98 acres, including 802.35 acres of forest, in Sandur taluk of Ballari district. Citizen groups have pointed to poor monitoring and enforcement of environment rules in the mining belt as a major cause for the destruction of forest, soil erosion and devastation of health in the surrounding villages.

As part of the Environment Clearance (EC) issued in 2004 to begin mining operations, NMDC was given a set of conditions. The notice lists a total of 27 instances where the conditions have been violated.

A few of the violations

- Destruction of forest, soil erosion and devastation of health in villages
- Non-submission of comprehensive progressive green belt development plan
- Failure to establish effluent treatment plant, establish environment laboratory



The violations include failure to submit a comprehensive progressive green belt development plan with year-wise break-up as stipulated even though it was a "specific condition" (condition number 4) of EC dated October 29, 2004. Citizen groups had questioned the 22-year delay.

Similarly, the notice said, the company failed to obtain approval of wildlife conservation plan. "According to the condition, the time prescribed is three months; therefore, it should have been implemented in 2004 itself," the notice said, seeking records to show when the application was submitted.

▸ NMDC, Page 6

Rs 93-cr foreign funding: FIR filed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The police have registered an anti-terrorism case against six people and a US-based Christian organisation, alleging that nearly Rs 92.55 crore in foreign funds were secretly channelled into India. Page 5A

Air India crash: Victims' kin gather

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Emotions ran high as families of the 260 people killed in the plane accident in Ahmedabad gathered near the crash site on Friday to mark the anniversary of one of the deadliest aviation disasters in the country. Page 7

Dharmasthala conspirators offered me Rs 50L: Chinna

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chinna C N, the informant who was later named an accused in the Dharmasthala mass burial issue, has informed the Karnataka High Court that he was offered Rs 50 lakh by the alleged conspirators led by Mahesh Shetty Timarodi to ensure that Rajya Sabha member Veerendra Heggade was sent to prison.

In his petition seeking directions to the Special Investigation team (SIT) to file its final report in the case, Chinna has also stated that actor Prakash Raj too spoke to him over phone during the preparations to file a complaint about the mass burials.

The petitioner stated that no proper investigation has been conducted on his statement disclosing the conspiracy by Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, Jayanth, Vittal Gowda, Sameer M D and their associates. He stated that though the SIT filed a preliminary enquiry report naming five persons as conspirators, no action was taken against them. The court ordered notice to the state government and SIT and adjourned the hearing.

A file picture of the masked informant.

▸ Dharmasthala, Page 6
SIT will answer queries: HM, Page 5

Bidadi farmers warn of Punjab-style agitation

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after the state government issued the final gazette notification for acquiring land for the first phase of the proposed integrated township in Bidadi, the farmers opposing the project warned on Friday of a massive agitation on the lines of the historic farmer movements in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

The notification to acquire 518 acres, which was issued on Thursday, covers lands across three villages — Kempaiyanapalya, Mandalahalli and Oderahalli — affecting as many as 754 farmers.

Many of them have rejected the government's offer of monetary compensation.

The protesters are planning to bring in influential farmer unions from Punjab and UP to join them in Bidadi.

▸ Bidadi, Page 5

Shooting star who hit the bull's eye as a coach

RAJEEV K

Think of Jaspal Rana and two images instantly spring to mind. The first one is from the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games range when a malfunctioning pistol dashed his gold medal dreams. The second is also from the Asian Games, at Doha in 2006 -- a beaming Rana being hoisted onto their shoulders by his Indian team-mates after a spectacular gold-winning performance.

Rana, who died at the age of 49 in Delhi on Friday, was synonymous with Indian shooting at the time and the sport was his very life.

Two decades later, even when life ebbed out of him early on Thursday, Rana and shooting remained wedded to each other. As a performer, he was one of a kind. As a coach, he scaled heights he never did as a competitor. The joy, to himself and to those watching, was immense.

Passion and emotions were Rana's ammunition. That explained the tears that trickled down his cheeks in Bangkok when his weapon broke down just as he was waging a spirited fight for gold. His fight for better facilities and equipment too was borne out of the same reason. He was not everyone's favourite. Those who understood him recognised his heart was always in the right place.

Jaspal Rana
1976-2026

Prof Sunny Thomas, the former Indian coach who passed away last year, was among them. He said Rana was a supreme talent.

"There is no one like him but there's a streak of laziness in him and you have to push him sometimes to train. But when the mood grips him, he never looks back. He is amazing," Prof Thomas had said once.

Rana's brilliance came to the fore early. The son of Narayan Singh Rana, an army veteran and a member of the Prime Minister's Special Protection Group -- who later became the sports minister of Uttarakhand -- Rana cornered attention at national events before nailing the 1994 junior world title in standard pistol in Milan.

▸ Jaspal Rana, Page 20

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MISSING LINKS

Lake fixes: The anatomy of failure

A plastic trapper barrier installed in Seegehalli Lake fails to stop plastic. (Right) A well-maintained aerator in Venkateshwara Lake has reportedly improved the water quality. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Crores are spent on lake fixes that fail because maintenance, monitoring, design and local realities are often overlooked

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

When Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist from East Bengaluru, saw a plastic barrier installed in Seegehalli lake, he was curious to see how it works. To his chagrin, he saw after a few days that all the plastic floated into the water body, bypassing the barrier. The local officials say the barrier's capacity was insufficient, and an updated system is being installed.

Many such interventions that need crores of rupees to implement finally fail to address the issues. Why does this happen?

Veena Srinivasan, executive director of Bengaluru-based WELL Labs, says that plastic trappers generally work well at trapping plastic, but they have to be cleaned regularly. "Nobody puts any protocols in place for cleaning them. So the problem is not so much about the intervention but about not putting funding and personnel to maintain it," she explains one side of the problem.

She says design plays a major role as well. "They have put it at the water level, probably during a dry season. But when you have a big flood, the water level is much higher than that. It makes the trapper float, and the plastic gets away along with the water flow," she explains.

Fancy fountains or aerators?

Anand Yadawad, a citizen activist, explains how the erstwhile BBMP officials installed two fountains in Avalahalli Lake. "I have never seen it functioning," he adds. It was as if someone just installed it and forgot it existed.

While fountains are not useful when they don't work, they do serve a purpose if taken care of in the right manner. Priyanka Jamwal, a senior fellow at the Water and Society Programme for Bengaluru-based nonprofit ATREE, gives an example of her own intervention. Venkateshwara Lake saw fish kills and water-quality complaints. Her team installed two submerged aerators in the lake, spread over 6.8 acres.

"We put this aerator in Venkateshwara Lake because of two things. One, we want to increase the dissolved oxygen level, and two, we want to reduce phosphorus level by locking it into the sediments," she adds.

Priyanka explains how it is maintained. "There is someone to make sure the aerator runs on time. We adjust the aerator's frequency or runtime based on temperature. If it is a very sunny day, we will increase. We are also continuously monitoring dissolved oxygen levels, and if it decreases, we will increase the number of hours we run the aerator."

"The dissolved oxygen levels are now good. And the total phosphorus levels are around 0.05, which is very low. This is important in summer because you don't want fish to die. Because of the aerator, the dissolved oxygen level in the lake is very good. We have not seen a single fish kill event in the lake. There is no chlorophyll in the lake as well, which makes the water look green," she describes the impact.

"If the lake water is in anaerobic conditions without oxygen, phosphorus will be released from the sediment and will increase chlorophyll, giving green colour to the lake. If you supply enough oxygen to the lake, then phosphorus will be locked in the sediments, stopping the chlorophyll bloom," she explains how the aerators help.

"So my point is, there should be some logic behind any intervention. For example, if they are installing two or three fountains to improve water quality, we need to ask what quality they are referring to and what the rationale is. Why have they only put two and not six? And before and after installing the fountains, have they seen any improvement in quality?" she explains the logic.

Priyanka says there are no useless interventions. "There are only poorly designed ones or poorly implemented ones. For example, there are sedimentation ponds in various lakes. When they do not work, it means they are not enough to contain everything that's coming in," she adds.

The floating island example

"Properly designed interventions will improve the quality. But they should be at the required scale to make an impact. For example, many lakes have floating islands. Some place one or two such islands and say lake water quality has improved. Many implement interventions without understanding the final goal or how they work, which is a problem," says Priyanka.

Seshadri K S, an ecologist and a faculty member at ATREE, says floating islands are feel-good interventions. "The floating plants are supposed to take up nutrients. But the way it's done is cost-intensive. They plant things like Canna, and dead plants need to be replaced often.

Otherwise, they will leach all nutrients back into the water. There are no conclusive studies showing whether the floating islands are effective. To absorb the incoming nutrients, the entire wetland surface needs to be carpeted with floating islands," he explains.

"The way wetlands are restored has a fundamental problem for birds and biodiversity. These once-seasonal tanks are now converted into soup bowls by dredging and deepening the wetland and building a raised bund all around. This deep profile destroys the shallow shoreline, which is essential for an entire group of birds, such as Sandpipers and Plovers, that forage in the shallow, squelchy soil," explains Seshadri.

Non-native plants are another problem. "Exotic plants and herbs that are not native species generally do not attract good biodiversity, such as butterflies and insects. Often, when restoring a lake, they remove all the vegetation. Native biodiversity maintains a healthy ecosystem in the lake. Removing it will also lead to blue-green algae or chlorophyll in the lake. Planting them along the shoreline or in the water body enhances the lake's aesthetics and water quality," adds Priyanka.

Many issues in lakes

Sankey Tank is yet another example of undergoing mindless "development works" that continued for a long time. Today, the walking track is concreted to a minimum width of four metres, and many concrete and cement structures are still being built within the lake area. Cement and construction materials are seen lying here and there.

Meanwhile, the lake has lost its previous water level. "There is a problem with the Sankey tank. I think there's a leak somewhere. Some serious investigation is required," says Veena. Locals do not know who is checking for leaks, while their queries with local corporations have not led anywhere.

Prof K S Bhat, founder and trustee of the Sarakki Lake Trust, lists many interventions that turned out useless, such as concrete stormwater drains that prevent groundwater recharge, cobblestone and concrete embankments instead of natural earthen bunds, amphitheatres within the lake premises and pumping treated water between lakes through pipelines rather than restoring natural drainage channels (rajakaluves).

"There are works worth crores which are absolutely not worth one paisa in economic value or technical value," he explains. "To give you an example, near the main gate, there is an outlet which was made by spending about two to three crores of rupees. In the three years since it was built, not a drop of water has gone through it."

Design a big problem

If an intervention works well, it is subject to certain principles, certain calculations, and designs. When the government sees such working interventions, it wants them replicated everywhere. "It means you have to still adjust height and weight, and change things depending on the reality of each place. But usually, project engineers and designers copy and paste solutions. They are not customised as per the site requirement," says Veena.

Veena explains how 'copy-paste' happens. "As soon as government funding is involved, a contractor is hired, who in turn hires a consulting firm but doesn't allocate enough money for proper consulting. The consulting firm hires a young engineer who may not have the time or resources to visit the site. Instead, they end up copying and pasting from previous projects and then move straight to implementation."

"As a result, we don't spend enough time in the design phase. We have technical talent and design expertise in the city, but the reality is that there is little financial incentive in the softer aspects of these projects. Most of the money is tied to infrastructure construction. Consequently, budgets are maximised for infrastructure rather than for design, validation, or checking whether the design criteria have actually been met," she adds.

An official from Bengaluru South told *DH* that the lower level engineers have no power to decide what an intervention should look like. "It comes from the top and we have to implement them," he added.

WELL Labs is working with GBA and Friends of Lakes to identify key design parameters to consider so that, even if a young engineer is handling the project, there is a clear framework to follow.

Feedback: pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

Cement and construction material pile up on the concretised Sankey Tank bund. DH PHOTO/SHREE D N

METRO

Bhaskar S elected president of Bowring Institute

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bhaskar S has been elected as the president of Bowring Institute. The institute recently conducted elections to select its new office bearers.

Bhaskar S

"We will spare no efforts to make Bowring Institute one of the best clubs in the country," Bhaskar said.

Alongside him, Ashok Kumar has been elected vice-president, HS Srikanth as treasurer, and Bharath Poovaiah as secretary.

Other members

The newly elected managing committee members include Arjun Sampath Kumar, Beena R Kumar, Chinnappa Gowda B, Devanandan Ramanna, Jolly HS, Anjilli Nawani, Manish P Shetty, Rama Murthy M, and Lakshmikantha V.

14 lakh homes in state still without sewer connections, finds govt data

Existing STPs lie underutilised as household networks remain incomplete

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Rapid urbanisation in Karnataka's Tier-2 cities is outpacing infrastructure, with the same pressures that strain Bengaluru now replicating across smaller towns.

Half of the over 2,026 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage generated outside the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) flows untreated into the environment, while nearly 14 lakh houses remain without a sewer connection.

State government data shows total sewage generation in Karnataka stands at 4,146.69 MLD. Urban local bodies outside the GBA account for 2,026.69 MLD of this. Of the 2,056.96 MLD of sewage that goes untreated, ULBs contribute a significant share.

The government has proposed 401 new sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a combined treatment capacity of 2,514.96 MLD, and plans to operationalise 14 non-functional STPs to treat an additional 1.76 MLD. But the core problem lies not in treatment capacity, but in the absence of sewer networks connecting households to the drains, leaving existing STPs underutilised.

Of the 37.34 lakh houses targeted for sewer connections, 13.94 lakh, or 37.3%, are yet to be linked. Another 16.49 lakh houses, accounting for 44.17%, have connections, while 6.9 lakh rely on septic tanks.

The government said treated water is used to recharge lakes in Bengaluru. In Tier-2 cities and towns, it is directed to agriculture or released into open channels.

Model cities & towns

In November 2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which monitors implementation of waste management rules, noted that the government had sufficient time to demonstrate full compliance and should have set defined timelines.

The government said Mysuru, Davangere and Hubballi-Dharwad were three major cities showing advanced compliance.

"Similarly, Hunasuru, Nanjangud and Hosadurga have been identified as model towns based on their performance and progress under Swachh Survekshan evaluations," it said.

Subhash Adi panel winds up

The state government has disbanded the Justice Subhash B Adi committee, the state-level body tasked with monitoring implementation of waste management rules.

Set up in 2019 by the National Green Tribunal, the committee had served as a coordinating body bringing together stakeholders and parastatal agencies to address the waste crisis. The government said the committee was wound up with effect from April 30, 2026.

Forged test reports: HAL police hunt for Hyd aerospace firm

BENGALURU, DHNS

HAL police have intensified their investigation into an alleged forgery case involving a Hyderabad-based aerospace components supplier accused of providing a fake address and forged test reports for components supplied to defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A programme.

A senior police officer from the HAL police station said a team will be sent to Hyderabad to trace the firm's actual office, M/s Tec Aero Devices, and locate its representatives, including the accused CEO.

The probe was initiated following a complaint from HAL, which alleged that M/s Tec Aero Devices submitted 199 forged test reports covering 172 components supplied for the LCA Tejas Mk1A programme.

A senior police officer clarified that only the test certificates were forged, with no counterfeit parts used in aircraft. HAL also made no payments for the disputed supplies

Acting on the complaint filed by Ranu Gupta, Deputy General Manager, Aircraft Division, HAL police registered a case against M Sivarama Prasad, CEO of M/s Tec Aero Devices, under IPC Sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), and 468 (forgery with intent to cheat).

Unverified company

Investigators said attempts to verify the company's address and serve notices have so far been unsuccessful. Police are now conducting field verification in Hyderabad as part of the ongoing investigation.

A senior police officer clarified that only the test certificates were found to be fake, and no counterfeit parts were used in any aircraft. He also stated that HAL had not made any payments to the company for the disputed supplies.

According to the complaint, HAL had placed 18 purchase orders with Tec Aero Devices in March 2022. During quality checks, discrepancies were found in 199 test reports submitted by the supplier. An internal audit revealed that the reports were issued in the name of Hyderabad-based Axis Inspection Solutions, allegedly by misusing the testing agency's name and signatures.

Following its internal inquiry, HAL removed M/s Tec Aero Devices from its approved supplier list for three years, until March 10, 2027, before initiating criminal proceedings.

Three police officers suspended over lapses in 5-year-old's murder probe

Shortcomings in original probe against mother, her live-in partner

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Friday suspended three police personnel, including a Kadugodi police inspector, for alleged dereliction of duty in the investigation of a five-year-old girl's murder.

The accused Priyanka P and Mohan GM.

The disciplinary action follows findings of lapses in the initial handling of the case, in which the child's mother, Priyanka P, 39, an advocate, and her live-in partner, Mohan GM, 40, a realtor, have been accused of involvement in the murder, that occurred on March 25.

Police initially registered a case of unnatural death. However, a murder investigation was launched after the post-mortem report revealed evidence suggesting foul play.

During the probe, Mohan allegedly confessed to killing the child by assaulting and smothering her inside a car near Hoskote.

Suspicion also fell on Priyanka after investigators found inconsistencies in her statements.

The child's father, Praveen B, subsequently approached the police, alleging foul play in his daughter's death. Preliminary investigations further indicated that Priyanka was unhappy with the child's dark complexion. According to the city police commissioner, a preliminary inquiry revealed serious lapses in the manner in which the case was investigated by the then Kadugodi inspector Rangaswamy HM, sub-inspector Ningaraju Anninavar, and constable Halesh Naik.

Singh has directed the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of the Banaswadi subdivision to conduct a fresh investigation into the case and determine whether there was any motive or intent behind the officers' failure to handle the investigation properly.

Authorities are examining the circumstances that led to the lapses and whether any deliberate omissions were involved.

A detailed departmental inquiry will be conducted, and further action will be initiated based on its findings, Singh said.

'There was no lapse on our part'

Rangaswamy, who is currently serving as inspector at the Electronics City Traffic Police Station, denied any negligence or attempt to shield the accused.

"We were awaiting the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report before proceeding further with the investigation. A case of suspicious death had been registered because Priyanka gave contradictory statements during the inquiry, which was also video-recorded," he told *DH*.

Rangaswamy said PSI Anninavar, the investigating officer, had repeatedly approached doctors seeking the final FSL report, but was advised to wait.

"In the meantime, I was transferred to the Electronics City Traffic Police Station. Subsequently, the child's father approached the present inspector, who continued the investigation and arrested the accused. There was no negligence or lapse on our part," he said.

Vocal concert today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira (SRLKM) will organise a vocal concert by Anirudh Subramanian accompanied by Keshav Mohankumar (on violin), Akshay Anand (on mridanga), and ASN Swamy (on khanjira) at 5.30 pm on Saturday at 9th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru.

All are welcome. Entry is free, the organisers said.

Those interested can visit www.srlkmandira.org or email at srlkmandira@gmail.com for more details.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Humour Programme: Felicitation: AR Govindaswamy; BP Kumaraswamy, S Girish to attend; Silver Bhavan, Karnataka Electricity Board Accounts Officers' Association, Anand Rao Circle; 10 am.

Special Art Exhibition: 'Broken Foot Journal and Other Narratives' (Reba Hore Birth Centenary); Organised by Seagull, Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

Conference: Research, Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship; Inauguration by Jitendra Singh; Organised by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories; VM Ghatage Convention Centre, HAL Airport Road; 2.15 pm.

Swabhimani Book Award Presentation: SG Siddaramaiah, Wooday P Krishna, M Thimmaiah to attend the event; Organised by Swabhimani Karnataka Vedike; Seshadripuram College, Seshadripuram; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Play 'Saragu': Written by Marutesh Kasapur; Directed by Savita Bairappa; Presented by Aayaama; Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; 11 am and 5 pm.

Play 'Silappatikaram': Presented by Tripudi Art Centre; Ranga Shankara; 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm onwards.

Play 'Cinderella': Presented by Bengaluru Prabhat Kalavidaru; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 7 pm onwards.

Yuva Sangeethotsava: Veena recital by Jyothsna Hebbar; Sudhanva R (mridangam) and Samarth Raghunandan (kanjira); Vocal concert by Dattaprasad Avadhoot, Pranavi Guruprasanna (violin), Ajay Aditya (mridangam) and Karthik Pranav (kanjira); Bengaluru Gayana Samaja, KR Road; 5.15 pm.

26th Year Pravachana Vahini: Classical music concert to be organised by Deepa Srinivas; Cultural Hall, Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust, Ragigudda, Jayanagar 9th Block; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.6°C
Minimum	21.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	82%
Sunset (June 13)	6:46 pm
Sunrise (June 14)	5:53 am
Moonrise	2:49 am
Moonset	3:53 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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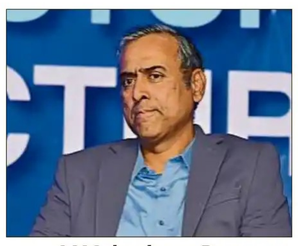

M Maheshwar Rao

GBA boss asks officials to adhere to timelines for major infra projects in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Friday directed officials to strictly adhere to timelines while executing major infrastructure projects.

Addressing a review meeting on the progress of key development works being carried out by city corporations under the GBA, he instructed officials to prepare clear project schedules and deploy adequate manpower and machinery to ensure timely completion.

Regarding the Kadugodi flyover, Varthur Kodi flyover, and Varthur Village elevated corridor being executed by KRDCL within the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits, officials were asked to address issues related to TDR and additional funding with senior authorities, secure necessary approvals at the earliest, and ensure timely completion of the projects.

Projects & timelines

Hope Farm Junction underpass: Land acquisition has reached its final stages. The project is expected to be completed in October.

Wind Tunnel Road: Utility shifting works, including relocation of BWSSB pipelines and other services along Wind Tunnel Road, have been completed. Retaining wall construction is in progress. Officials have been told to deploy additional workers and expedite the work.

Okalipuram Octagonal Corridor: Rainwater drain pipe-pushing work is in progress, along with approach road construction. Officials have been directed to increase manpower, speed up execution, and prepare a detailed schedule for completion of remaining works.

Yelahanka flyover: Additional manpower has already been deployed. The work is expected to be completed by September.

Ejipura flyover: Officials have been instructed to accelerate progress by preparing weekly activity schedules and deploying additional manpower and machinery.

Lokayukta inspection spots lapses in food warehouses

BENGALURU, DHNS

A surprise inspection conducted by the Karnataka Lokayukta at multiple Food and Civil Supplies Department warehouses and Anna Bhagya distribution centres in Bengaluru on Friday uncovered several irregularities, including stock mismatches, absence of worker welfare measures, unaccounted cash, and violations of transportation norms.

A team of Lokayukta officials inspected departmental facilities in Shantinagar, Bommanahalli, Basavanagudi, and Hanumanthanagar.

During the inspection at the Shantinagar warehouse, officials found discrepancies between the stock recorded in registers and the actual quantity of rice bags available at the facility. The officials concerned failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for the mismatch.

The Lokayukta team also found that several workers employed at the warehouses were not covered under insurance or other labour welfare schemes.

In Bommanahalli, records relating to rice stock were found to be incomplete, and officials were unable to furnish accurate information regarding the quantity received and distributed. A lorry transporting rice was found to be carrying a load beyond its permitted capacity, and its insurance, permit, and registration certificates had reportedly expired.

In Basavanagudi, unaccounted cash of Rs 17,800 and Rs 9,500 was found with two staff members, who failed to explain the source of the money.

The inspection also revealed violations of government guidelines governing the transport of Anna Bhagya rice, including failure to display mandatory markings and helpline details on distribution vehicles. Similar lapses were observed at facilities in Hanumanthanagar.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils NUWA, a nature-inspired natural diamond collection

Drawing inspiration from nature's intricate patterns and organic forms, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has introduced NUWA, a contemporary natural diamond jewellery collection that draws inspiration from details such as honeycombs, stripes, fluid formations, and naturally occurring patterns.

Crafted in 18kt and 14kt gold, NUWA features natural diamonds enhanced with coloured gemstones, ceramic colour enamelling, and multi-tone rhodium finishes. The collection combines intricate craftsmanship with contemporary design, offering versatile pieces suited for a range of occasions.

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan continues as the face of the collection, reflecting its spirit of individuality, confidence, and timeless elegance.

Commenting on the launch, MP Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "With NUWA, we sought to translate nature's intricate patterns and textures into a contemporary diamond collection that feels sophisticated, versatile, and relevant to today's woman. Every piece reflects a balance between craftsmanship and effortless elegance."

Designed for women who appreciate understated luxury and meaningful design, NUWA offers a distinctive expression of modern diamond jewellery inspired by the harmony of nature.

Established in 1993, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group and the world's fifth-largest jewellery retailer, with over 445 showrooms across 14 countries. The Group continues to combine craftsmanship, innovation, and responsible business practices while contributing to community development through its CSR initiatives.

Curated by DH Brandspot

COMMUTE CHAOS: Uprooted trees add to rush-hour misery

Evening deluge floods IT corridors, blocks underpasses

A tree fell on Sampige Road in Malleswaram on Friday amid heavy rain. PHOTO: BTP

Motorists struggle through a waterlogged road near Jayamahal Palace. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

BENGALURU, DHNS

Familiar scenes returned on Friday evening as a sudden heavy downpour accompanied by squally winds flooded roads, toppled trees and left thousands of rush-hour commuters stranded across the city.

Cab and auto-hailing apps showed steep surge pricing or listed no vehicles available, adding to the distress of commuters trying to get home.

The worst of the traffic hit the city's IT corridors.

A massive jam built up from the Manyata flyover towards Hebbal, blocking the Outer Ring Road entirely. In the east, rainwater collected outside Phoenix Marketcity Mall in Mahadevapura and at GRT Junction, slowing vehicles moving toward Hoodi.

Flooding was severe at B Narayanapura for vehicles heading into the city.

On the western edge, motorists backed up for kilometres from Devegowda Circle toward Nagarabhavi and on the Nayandahalli-Nagarabhavi stretch, where vehicles waded through deep water.

The city's underpasses filled quickly, making passage dangerous for smaller vehicles.

Traffic stopped at the Jayamahal Underpass toward Mehkri Circle. The Khode underpass, Windsor Manor down ramp and the stretch from RP Road toward PG Halli all slowed to a crawl. Motorists heading to the airport faced delays as water flooded the road near Sanjaynagar Cross.

Strong winds brought down trees in several older neighbourhoods, blocking lanes and deepening the gridlock.

A tree fell at Kothanur Junction toward RBI Layout, creating a bottleneck that took hours to clear. Another came down in Malleswaram, blocking a busy shopping street.

Rainfall recorded across core areas

BENGALURU, DHNS: Light to moderate rain and thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds of 30–40 kmph, lashed several core areas of Bengaluru on Friday evening as the southwest monsoon intensified over the city.

The Bengaluru City observatory recorded 4.2 mm of rainfall by 8.30 pm, taking the total rainfall for the month to 21.1 mm.

The HAL Airport observatory reported cumulonimbus cloud formation, which typically produces thundershowers. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the station has recorded 42 mm of rainfall so far this June.

The city observatory's average rainfall for June is 110.3 mm, while the HAL Airport's average stands at 101.8 mm.

The maximum temperature in the city was 29.6°C, 0.3°C above normal, while the minimum was 21.7°C, 0.9°C above normal.

At the HAL Airport, the maximum temperature was 29.7°C, which is normal for the station, and the minimum was 20.4°C, 0.3°C above normal.

The IMD has forecast generally cloudy skies with light rain for both Bengaluru City and the HAL Airport on Saturday, with temperatures expected to hover around 30°C and 21°C, respectively.

GBA sounds dengue alert as monsoon arrives

BENGALURU, DHNS: With monsoon rains reaching the city, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has begun steps to prevent a rise in dengue cases.

Dr SS Madani, Chief Health Officer, GBA's Public Health Department, on Friday directed officials to take precautionary measures.

Dr Madani urged citizens to ensure rainwater does not collect in discarded items such as tyres, coconut shells, broken bottles, old refrigerators, flower pots and other waste materials.

"Such items should be properly disposed of. People are also advised to use mosquito repellents and nets or screens to protect themselves from mosquito bites," he said.

GBA officials appealed to residents to consult doctors, healthcare staff or ASHA workers at city corporation and government hospitals if they experience fever or related symptoms.

Fumigation in a city park as part of dengue-prevention measures. FILE PHOTO

Dengue is a viral disease spread through the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti mosquito. These mosquitoes breed in clean stagnant water and bite during daytime.

Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, and intense muscle and joint pain.

South Corpn flags 10 waterlogging spots

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) has identified 10 major waterlogging areas in its jurisdiction and directed officials to keep strict vigil on these spots during the monsoon.

BSCC Commissioner KN Ramesh, who held a review meeting with corporation officials and traffic police personnel, directed them to put in place road safety measures and steps to prevent inconvenience to the public during the monsoon season.

To check traffic disruption from haphazard parking, the corporation has deployed six towing vehicles for unauthorisedly parked vehicles. Ramesh instructed traffic police to use three vehicles for Jayanagar and three for BTM Layout, Bommanahalli and Bellandur areas.

He also asked them to use the Mallasandra Ground and AGS Layout Ground to park towed vehicles.

Ramesh noted heavy traffic congestion at NICE Junction on Bannerghatta Main Road and instructed officials to provide a loop system there, on the lines of the Mysore Road NICE Junction model.

High-risk areas identified

Hulimavu Lake Junction, Sagar Junction to Sagar Hospital, HSR Layout 14th Main Road, Sony World Junction, Outer Ring Road, HSR Layout 5th Main Road, Shri Rangam Junction, Bellandur-Iblur Junction, Wipro Junction on Sarjapur Road, Roopena Agrahara, and Madiwala Ayyappa Junction.

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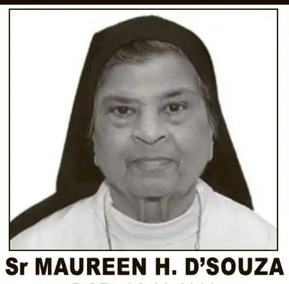

Sr MAUREEN H. D'SOUZA
DOB: 21.12.1939
Passed away on 12.06.2026 and Funeral was held at St. Joseph's Convent, Bangalore
Mourned by: Provincial & Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes, Fraser Town, Bangalore

OBITUARY

Om Namo Narayana
With profound grief,
we announce the passing of
Mr. B.G. Krishna Prasad
on June 12, 2026 at Bangalore.

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND ALL THOSE WHOSE LIVES HE TOUCHED.

Copper bearings in place of gold: How self-styled godwoman duped a family

BENGALURU, DHNS: A self-styled godwoman and her associate allegedly cheated a Whitefield software engineer's family of gold ornaments worth Rs 7.5 lakh by staging an overnight ritual to ward off evil spirits, then vanishing before the deception was discovered.

Mohin Pasha, 32, told the police that the accused, Naveeda Sultana, a native of Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh, was introduced to his family by his friend Ajjar Pasha on May 23.

Sultana was admitted at a hospital on Old Airport Road, from where Mohin brought her home.

During her visit, Sultana told the family that Mohin's younger brother was under the influence of evil forces and faced a life-threatening danger.

She warned them that unless special rituals were performed, the youth could die within 10 days.

Alarmed, Mohin's mother agreed to the rituals and arranged the items Sultana listed.

On May 25, Sultana and her associate Parvez returned and began the rituals around 1 am.

The family placed 35 grams of gold ornaments along with materials as instructed.

Naveeda Sultana

The ritual continued until around 4.30 am, after which the accused wrapped the items in cloth bundles and placed them in an iron box.

Mohin's family also spent nearly Rs 30,000 on the rituals. Sultana directed the family not to open the box for three months and not to leave the house for 10 days.

On June 1, Sultana called Mohin and sought a loan of Rs 60,000. When he said he could not arrange the money, she abused him over the phone.

Suspicious, Mohin opened the iron box and found the gold replaced with copper bearings.

When confronted, Sultana claimed she was a magician who practised occult rituals and assured him the jewellery would be returned.

Whitefield police have registered a case.

The accused are yet to be traced, and police suspect she may have cheated several other families in a similar fashion.

Officials to inspect building projects to check unauthorised construction

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), on Friday directed officials to conduct mandatory inspections of approved building projects once every three months to prevent unauthorised constructions.

Kumar, who chaired a review meeting of various departments, also instructed officials to ensure that high-rise and low-rise building projects are treated equally and that all applications are processed in accordance with regulations.

"Officials were instructed to reduce the disposal time for building plan approvals and other applications," a BNCC statement said.

On the health front, Kumar directed officials to take complaints against doctors and healthcare staff seriously and initiate strict action wherever negligence is established.

He also stressed the need to intensify awareness campaigns on solid waste management and instructed officials to take stringent action against commercial establishments that violate waste segregation and solid waste management rules.

"Officials were instructed to continue stringent action against establishments that repeatedly violate regulations despite warnings and to ensure that all commercial establishments maintain waste disposal bins and adopt proper waste management practices," the BNCC statement added.

Hulimavu Lake development works to be expedited

Sushma Godbole, Special Commissioner of the Forest, Ecology, and Climate Change (FECC) Division of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Friday directed officials to expedite development work at Hulimavu Lake.

Local residents complained that work had been underway since 2022 and that sewage was still entering the lake.

After hearing public grievances during a site inspection, Sushma directed BWSSB officials to speed up construction of the sewage treatment plant.

Wire fencing must be installed around the lake immediately to prevent encroachment and ensure safety, she said.

Influencer loses Rs 5.46L jewellery at luxe aesthetic clinic; FIR filed

BENGALURU, DHNS

A social media influencer lost jewellery worth Rs 5.64 lakh after she left four diamond rings and two gold bangles in a therapy room at an aesthetic clinic on Vittal Mallya Road.

The Cox Town resident visited ISAAC Luxe clinic on May 7 for laser treatment.

Before the procedure, she was asked to remove her jewellery and keep it in a box inside the therapy room.

She left the clinic around 6.30 pm. On the way home, she realised that she had forgotten to collect the ornaments. She contacted the clinic, but her calls went unanswered. She then left Bengaluru to attend an event in Paris.

Her sister visited the clinic the following day and enquired about the missing jewellery, but received no information.

After returning from Paris, the woman visited the clinic and questioned the staff, but did not receive a satisfactory response about the whereabouts of the valuables, the FIR stated.

Cubbon Park police registered an FIR on her complaint, but are yet to question the staff, a senior officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, the complainant said she had been a client of the clinic for over a year and had recommended it to friends. When she realised she had left the jewellery behind, she was confident it would be kept safely and returned to her the next day.

"I called the clinic more than 30 times that evening, but nobody answered.

"I even contacted their head office in Delhi and informed them that I had left my jewellery in the therapy room and would collect it the next day," she said.

"The CCTV footage shows me entering the clinic wearing the jewellery and leaving without it. I never collected it from the room. After I left, some staff members and a cleaner entered the room.

"Most of the pieces were gifts to me over the years and hold immense sentimental value. More than the monetary loss, I wanted to make every effort to recover them," she added.

Dharmasthala case: SIT will answer court's queries, says Home minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Friday said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will reply to questions posed by the judiciary on the allegations of mass burials at Dharmasthala.

"The court has asked some questions to the SIT. The SIT chief will answer. I can't discuss that in public," Priyank said, adding that it was a "court-monitored process."

Priyank was reacting to a plea made before the High Court by Chinnaiah C N, the complainant in the mass burial allegations case, seeking directions to the SIT to complete its probe.

He has reportedly claimed that the operation to level 'false allegations' had a budget of Rs 200 crore. He has also named actor Prakash Raj. "Rs 200 crore isn't a small amount. We don't know how much of that is true. We'll have to examine this claim," Priyank said. On Prakash Raj's name coming up, the minister said: "The mere mention of a name doesn't make that person a criminal."

Bidadi Township: Farmers fume as govt issues final notification

They have been staging protest for 450 days

BENGALURU, DHNS

Going against continuous protests by local farmers for over 15 months, the state government has issued a final notification to take over 518 acres of land for the proposed Bidadi Township project.

The notification covers land acquisition across three villages for the first phase. In Kempegowdanapalya, 367.15 acres, Mandalahalli, 70.37 acres and in Oderahalli, 61.02 acres.

To handle the growing anger, the state government has fixed a minimum payment of Rs 2.14 crore per acre, asking landowners to submit their property papers to get the money.

Farmers write to Rahul Gandhi

Local farmer groups have already written a letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. They pointed out the irony that his party speaks up for farmers in North India but is taking away land from farmers in Karnataka.

In his letter to Rahul Gandhi, environmentalist Vijay Nishanth describes the proposed Bidadi Township project as the first of three major issues causing large-scale environmental destruction in Karnataka. He states that vast stretches of fertile agricultural land are being forcefully converted for township development, displacing farmers and local citizens who have lived and cultivated the land for generations.

The local farmer groups, protesting against the acquisition of fertile land for the Bidadi Township, have already written a letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, pointing out the irony that his party speaks up for farmers in North India but is taking away land from farmers in Karnataka. DH FILE PHOTO

Nishanth argues that political influence and land interests are overriding the voices of ordinary citizens and warns that Karnataka cannot afford to lose its agricultural lands to satisfy real-estate ambitions.

A pattern emerges

The growing trouble in Bidadi is not new. It follows a regular pattern where the state government takes rural land for industries and cities, leading to big protests.

Just a few weeks ago, farmers organised a massive bike rally to the Vidhana Soudha, bringing Chikkaballapur to a halt. Farmers have been protesting against the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for trying to take over 2,823 acres of land across 13 villages in Jangamakote Hobli. The area is famous for silk farming, and the government's plans led to clashes, police using sticks (lathi-charge), and blocked highways.

Bidadi farmers are inspired by the success of farmers in Devanahalli's Channarayapatna Hobli. After nearly three years of protests against the KIADB's plan to take 1,777 acres of land, where police even arrested protesting farmers, the state government was finally forced to back down.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Shivakumar meets Amit Shah, seeks dedicated cybercrime unit

CM has asked for two Indian Reserve Battalions for state

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought the Centre's support for bolstering the state's law and order machinery, including sanctioning two battalions of the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) and establishing a dedicated cybercrime control unit.

In a detailed memorandum submitted to Shah, the CM requested approval for several key proposals aimed at strengthening and modernising the police force, internal security, cybercrime prevention, training infrastructure and prison modernisation.

The state government has already submitted a proposal to raise two additional IRBs in Vijayanagara and Ramanagara districts at an estimated cost of Rs 243.87 crore. Shivakumar sought clearance for the proposal at the earliest.

To tackle the rising threat of cybercrimes, the state has proposed the establishment of the Karnataka Cyber Crime Control and Coordination Unit (K4C) at an estimated investment of Rs 360 crore. A detailed project report is to be submitted shortly seeking central assistance, the memorandum said.

Other pending proposals highlighted by the CM include: Early nod from the Union Home Minister for Award of the President's Colour to the Karnataka State Police; sanctioning of Rs 280 crore for setting up Command-and-Control Centres and communication equipment in four major cities of the state; release of Rs 258.53 crore for upgrading infrastructure at police training institutes and another Rs 278.26 crore for upgrading CCTV cameras in police stations.

Shivakumar also sought Shah's intervention in the latter's capacity of Minister for Co-Operation, in the sugar sector, and asked for an enhancement in the Fair and Remunerative Price for sugarcane, and revision of the Minimum Selling Price for sugar. He also sought increased allocation for ethanol procurement so as to support the co-operative sugar factories, and ensure timely payment to farmers.

Clearance sought for water projects

Later, Shivakumar, accompanied by Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy, held discussions with Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on long-pending inter-state water projects.

The CM pressed for early clearance and central support for key initiatives, including the Mekedatu project, notification of the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal II Award, release of committed funds for the Upper Bhadra Project, and approval for the Kalasa-Banduri project, besides other pending proposals related to the Mahadayi dispute.

"Protecting Karnataka's rightful water interests and enabling these projects is essential for our farmers and our state's long-term growth," Shivakumar said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, the CM paid a courtesy call on President of India Droupadi Murmu and Vice President C P Radhakrishnan.

Supreme Court tells Rohini Sindhuri & Roopa Moudgil to go for mediation

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a significant development, the Supreme Court on Friday referred the prolonged defamation battle between senior Karnataka IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri and IPS officer D Roopa Moudgil to mediation, observing that the two women officers were "destroying each other's careers" through continued litigation.

D Roopa Moudgil

Rohini Sindhuri

JUSTICE SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA OBSERVES ORALLY

"Both (Rohini Sindhuri IAS & D Roopa Moudgil IPS) of them are destroying each other's careers through continued litigation.

A bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Sanjeev Sachdeva appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph as the mediator and stayed further proceedings in the cases pending before the lower courts.

"Both of them are destroying each other's careers," Justice Sharma remarked orally during the hearing.

The court noted that the matter was best resolved through mediation rather than prolonged adversarial proceedings. The parties have been directed to appear before Justice Kurian Joseph.

The dispute between the two officers erupted in 2023 after public allegations and social media posts, leading to cross-complaints for criminal and civil defamation.

The latest round reached the Supreme Court after the Karnataka High Court dismissed Rohini Sindhuri's petition challenging criminal defamation proceedings initiated by D Roopa Moudgil.

The High Court had upheld a magistrate's order taking cognizance, ruling that the question of whether the statements were made in good faith or for public good was a matter of evidence to be decided at trial. The bench had earlier granted time to both parties to explore an amicable settlement, but no resolution was reached.

The controversy traces back to February 18, 2023, when D Roopa Moudgil allegedly made a series of Facebook posts levelling allegations against Sindhuri, including claims regarding the construction of a large bungalow in Jalahalli that was allegedly not disclosed in her immovable property returns.

Sindhuri responded by filing a civil defamation suit seeking a perpetual injunction and a private criminal complaint under Section 500 of the IPC. Moudgil challenged those proceedings, but her petition was dismissed by the High Court.

The apex court had then intervened, encouraging a settlement, leading to the removal of the posts and withdrawal of the case.

With no settlement in sight, Moudgil, in December 2024, filed a fresh criminal complaint alleging that Sindhuri had made derogatory remarks against her, including calling her "mentally unsound."

A magistrate took cognizance after considering her reply, prompting Sindhuri to approach the High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court.

With both officers continuing to litigate against each other, the apex court has now pushed for mediation to bring an end to the acrimonious dispute that has affected their professional careers.

Bidadi farmers warn of Punjab-style agitation

Bidadi, From Page 1

This is likely to set the stage for a major face-off with the state government on June 16, when a joint meeting will be held to chalk out the next course of action.

Farmer Nagaraju R, who owns 12 acres in Mandalahall and grows multiple crops, lamented the notification. "My land is very fertile. At this age, who will give us a job? We have just this land; shouldn't our children and grandchildren have it?"

Protesters claimed that Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is stubbornly pushing the project forward, completely ignoring people's voices. "...No district officer came to look at the ground, no testing of this fertile land was done and no village meeting (Grama Sabha) was called to take our permission," Yashavantha T, leader of the Prantha Raitha Sangha, told *DH*.

Voicing his support for the agitating farmers, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Friday blamed the state government for hurting local farmers by pushing the project, and pointed out that locals have been protesting peacefully for nearly 470 days against parting with their lands.

Speaking to reporters, he stressed that out of the 3,500 farming families in the area, 80% didn't want the project, yet the government was going ahead without even holding talks with the affected people.

Kumaraswamy suggested the government find dry, barren lands for new projects instead of destroying the livelihoods of farming families. Calling the final notification "unfair" and "anti-people", Kumaraswamy also flayed Home Minister Priyank Kharge for his statement that the farmers should fight the land acquisition in court.

For the small-scale farmers of Byramangala and Kanchugaranahalli village panchayats in Bidadi, their land is the only way to earn a living. Suma, a resident of Kanchugaranahalli who stands to lose two acres of land, expressed her anguish. "We do not want their Rs 2.14 crore. Even if they give Rs 20 crore, we will not give up our land. What will we do with cash? If we go just two kilometers away, we cannot even buy a small piece of land with that money. Once the money is spent on building a house, how are uneducated, elderly and women farmers supposed to survive without their fields?"

Suma also claimed that only a few rich landlords with 40 to 50 acres are supporting the project for profit, while poor and middle-class farmers are being ruined. Another upset farmer, Shweta, from Hosur village, questioned the government's fairness. "They say Bengaluru is growing. But why should they destroy farmers to build a city? Let them go and develop areas where people actually need jobs. We voted for these politicians, and today they refuse to even come and talk to us," Shweta added.

JD(S) complaint is frivolous, says Shivanna

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress' Legislative Council election candidate Shivanna B S has described the JD(S) complaint against his nomination as "frivolous" and "completely bereft of either factual or legal foundation."

In its complaint, the JD(S) claimed that Shivanna's affidavit "omitted" criminal cases against him. Shivanna argued that the three cases mentioned by the JD(S) were instituted by himself.

"The law requires disclosure of criminal cases pending against a candidate. The law does not require disclosure of criminal cases initiated by a candidate against others," Shivanna stated, adding that his nomination had already been scrutinised and accepted by the returning officer as per law.

Class 9 girl gives birth inside toilet

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: A class 9 student residing at a Backward Classes Welfare Department hostel in the town gave birth to a child in a lavatory in the school on Friday.

The girl proceeded to toss the infant out of the toilet window, killing it instantly.

The girl reportedly delivered the baby herself before classes commenced in the morning on Friday.

The dead infant was discovered by cleaning staff. Authorities at the school immediately alerted the police and other officials.

The girl was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, and her condition is reported to be stable.

Preliminary investigation has found that a close relative of the girl impregnated her. A case having been registered at the Sirsi Rural police station.

4 students hurt as ceiling crashes

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Four students were injured after chunks of cement fell from the ceiling of a classroom at the Government Girls' PU College in Kalaburagi on Friday. The incident occurred while classes were underway on the third floor of the college building. The injured students were admitted to the Trauma Centre at GIMS and are undergoing treatment, said DDPU Suresh Akkanna.

SHILLONG MEDICAL COLLEGE
Government of Meghalaya
Pasteur Hills, Lawmali Road, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793001
email: shgmedicalcollege@gmail.com | website: shillongmedicalcollege.co.in

NOTICE INVITING RFP FOR PROCUREMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL ACCESS OF DIGITAL MEDICAL E-BOOK COLLECTION FOR SHILLONG MEDICAL COLLEGE

Dated: Shillong the 12th June 2026

SMCMS-05/2026/e-Books/07: The Shillong Medical College Management Society, vide NIT Reference No. **SMCMS-05/2026/e-Books/05**: dated 12th June 2026, invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible and qualified bidders for procurement and institutional access of Digital Medical E-Book Collection for Shillong Medical College, Shillong, located at Pasteur Hills, Lawmali, Shillong.

Interested bidders may obtain the detailed RFP document from the official website: **https://meghealth.gov.in/**.

MIPR No.: 798
Dated: 12-06-2026

Sd/- **Member Secretary**
Shillong Medical College Management Society

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Higher grants to Kurubas not 'intentional', Siddu clarifies

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former chief minister Siddaramaiah has clarified that the higher representation of the Kuruba community among beneficiaries of grants sanctioned to backward class organisations is not 'intentional'

"The Backward Classes Welfare Department has gone through requests and has granted Rs 71.85 crore for 155 backward class organisations to build community halls and student hostels. This list is not final. After checking the requests by other backward castes, funds will be released. Since the Kuruba community submitted more requests, it has received more grants. There has been no conscious discrimination," Siddaramaiah said in a post on X. He was responding to a *DH* report stating that at least 80 of the 155 Kuruba organisations received the funds.

Suspected terror accused dies

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sixty-eight-year-old Abdul Khader, a suspected terror accused and an undertrial prisoner in the 2008 Madiwala serial bomb blast case, died due to health complications while lodged at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Friday afternoon.

A senior police officer said that Khader, who had been in judicial custody since 2010, developed serious health issues earlier in the day. Prison staff shifted him to Jayadeva Hospital for treatment. However, he reportedly suffered a heart attack while being shifted and died on the way to the hospital around 1.30 pm.

The body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem examination and Prison officials have informed his family members about the death.

Based on a complaint by jail authorities, a case of unnatural death has been registered and the postmortem will be conducted on Saturday before the magistrate, the police officer said.

FIR over Rs 92.55-cr foreign funding routed through 1K debit cards

Cops invoke FCRA, FEMA & UAPA; funds allegedly linked to Naxal activities in Chhattisgarh

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police have registered an anti-terrorism case against six people and a US-based Christian organisation, alleging that nearly Rs 92.55 crore in foreign funds was secretly channelled into India through a sophisticated network of foreign-issued debit cards and withdrawn across multiple states, including Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected regions.

The FIR names Jonathan S Rajan, Micah Mark, Ajith Varghese Mathai, Varghese Chacko, Babu Kurmi, Supreme Joy and the US-based organisation The Timothy Initiative (TTI).

Police have invoked criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, violating the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) provisions, and engaging in activities attracting provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

According to the complaint filed by an Enforcement Directorate (ED) official, searches conducted in April exposed an alleged underground financial network through which foreign donations were brought into India, bypassing statutory channels.

Investigators claim that from November 2025 to April 2026, Rs 92.55 crore (USD 9.99 million) entered the country through foreign debit cards issued by a US bank and linked to TTI.

The FIR alleges that the network operated through more than 1,000 foreign debit cards, many carrying the common name "Santosh Kumar", while internally being identified through coded regional classifications such as NE-1, NE-2 and Southern Region-1 to avoid regulatory scrutiny and KYC checks.

A major breakthrough came on April 18, when authorities intercepted Meeka Mark at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport and allegedly recovered 24 foreign-issued debit cards from his possession.

Investigators claim he played a key role in facilitating the movement and operation of the cards across India.

Police have alleged that over Rs 44 crore was withdrawn through ATMs in several states, including Assam, while significant cash withdrawals were traced to Bastar and Dhamtari, regions affected by left-wing extremism.

The FIR claims that Rs 6.34 crore was withdrawn in such sensitive areas and another Rs 3.2 crore through more than 3,200 transactions structured at Rs 10,000 each.

The complaint further alleges that the money was distributed through a network of field workers and regional coordinators. Investigators suspect that the funds were used for organisational activities, training programmes, religious outreach and expansion of operations across the country.

In one of the most serious allegations, police have claimed that digital evidence was destroyed after enforcement agencies began scrutiny.

The FIR states that access to the TTI Global portal was blocked for Indian users and backend data stored on US-based servers was allegedly deleted remotely. Investigators have cited statements and video recordings purportedly showing Meeka Mark admitting to deleting his account from the system.

The FIR also alleges that Mathai functioned as the overall finance head for TTI's India operations, while Rajan oversaw nationwide activities. During searches, police allegedly seized Rs 37 lakh in cash from premises linked to the suspects.

A senior officer from the Kothanur police station told *DH* that given the magnitude of the alleged transactions and the serious nature of the offences, the case was likely to be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further probe.

Kodagu, Mysuru witness intermittent rains

BENGALURU, DHNS: After a delayed but good start, the southwest monsoon has weakened over the coastal Karnataka and south and north interior K'taka. A few places in south interior of Karnataka received intermittent rainfall on Friday.

Madikeri town and parts of Kodagu district continued to see overcast skies interspersed with light to moderate showers.

Hebbale and surrounding areas in Kushalnagar taluk experienced heavy rain. Sampaje in Madikeri taluk recorded 50 mm of rain in the last 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Friday.

Occupants of a house at Jyothinagar had a close shave after a tree came crashing on it at Jyothinagar in Madikeri.

Harangi reservoir is seeing decent inflows following heavy rain in the past few days. On Friday, the reservoir clocked an inflow of 489 cusec.

Power lines at Metagalli Layout in Mysuru were snapped following heavy rain, coupled with strong winds late Thursday evening. A few electricity poles were uprooted and several of them tilted in the layout.

Farmer dies in lightning strike

A 60-year-old farmer died after being struck by lightning in Bettadapura of Periyapatna taluk in Mysuru district, on Friday.

S T Anand (60), of Sangarahasettahalli, is the deceased. It is said that he was watering the tobacco crop, when it started raining heavily. He sought refuge under a tree, when the lightning struck.

Anand, who suffered severe burns, was immediately shifted to the government hospital in K R Nagar, but he died en route. He leaves behind his wife and two sons.

Konkan Railway fortifies monsoon defences across Maha-Goa-K'taka corridor

MUMBAI, DHNS

As the southwest monsoon gathers momentum along India's western coast, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has rolled out an extensive safety and disaster-management plan to safeguard train services across the 741-km corridor linking Maharashtra, Goa and coastal Karnataka.

The annual monsoon preparedness exercise assumes added significance as the railway line traverses one of the country's most challenging terrains, cutting through steep hills, deep valleys, rivers and landslide-prone stretches from Roha in Maharashtra to Thokur near Mangaluru in Karnataka.

Officials of KRCL, headquartered in Navi Mumbai, said a comprehensive geo-safety and surveillance programme has been put in place ahead of the monsoon timetable that comes into force from June 15 and will remain operational until October 20.

The preparedness measures are particularly crucial for Karnataka's coastal belt, including Karwar, Bhatkal and Udupi, where intense rainfall frequently poses operational challenges. The Konkan Railway serves as a critical transport artery connecting Mumbai with Goa, Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Kerala, carrying thousands of passengers, migrant workers, students and tourists daily.

Maintenance and infrastructure upgrade works being carried out along Konkan Railway route. The Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd has rolled out an extensive safety and disaster-management plan to safeguard train services across the 741-km corridor.

To strengthen vulnerable locations, KRCL has undertaken large-scale slope stabilisation works, including soil nailing, rock bolting, shotcreting, gabion walls, retaining structures, micropiles and boulder netting. Drainage systems across the route have been cleaned and reinforced to ensure rapid discharge of rainwater.

According to railway officials, sustained investments in geo-safety infrastructure have significantly reduced incidents of boulder falls and soil slips.

Notably, the railway has not witnessed any major monsoon-related disruption due to boulder falls during the past decade.

A total of 657 trained personnel will be deployed for round-the-clock monsoon patrolling across vulnerable sections.

Excavator-equipped wagons have been strategically positioned at Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavali and Verna, while Rail Maintenance Vehicles have been stationed at nine locations, including Karwar, Bhatkal and Udupi.

Tower wagons for emergency restoration work have also been placed at key stations across the network.

Given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, KRCL has strengthened its technology-driven monitoring systems.

Self-recording rain gauges are operational at nine stations, including Karwar, Bhatkal and Udupi, while flood-warning systems have been activated on major river bridges.

Wind-monitoring systems have been installed on critical structures such as the Sharavati Bridge in Karnataka and the Panval, Mandovi and Zuari bridges to monitor high-velocity winds that could impact train operations.

Special operational protocols have also been put in place.

Train speeds will be regulated during periods of poor visibility, while services may be temporarily suspended if water levels rise beyond prescribed safety limits.

Emergency preparedness has been enhanced with Accident Relief Medical Vans stationed at Ratnagiri and Verna, a fully equipped Accident Relief Train at Verna, and medical teams deployed at Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Verna, Madgaon (Goa), Karwar and Udupi (in Karnataka).

Clarification

This is in reference to the news report 'Unsafe man-to-man sexual contact leads to HIV/AIDS spike', which appeared on June 8, 2026.

According to the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS), the active population under the MSM (male-to-male sex) category was misinterpreted as the number of HIV-positive cases.

The term 'active population' refers to the number of individuals registered under the MSM programme and covered under the KSAPS's Targeted Intervention Programme. It does not denote the number of HIV-positive cases. While the active MSM population was 44,58 in 2023-24, 62,664 in 2024-25 and 2025-26 in 66,606, the corresponding number of HIV-positive cases was only 166, 362, and 412.

After Trump says war over, Iran hints at deal

Iran, From Page 1

Trump later posted a screenshot of Araghchi's message on his own feed.

Disputing Trump's "bad faith" accusation, foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said an agreement had now been reached with Washington "on most points".

"We are in the last phases of arriving at a conclusion," he said.

According to Iran's IRNA news agency, after an initial agreement is signed, Iran and the US would hold 60 more days of talks and that "Iran's right to enrich uranium and the retention of enriched material... will be emphasised with a view to their inclusion in the final agreement".

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_10, Dated: 10/06/2026**
Description of Work	Contract for machining of equipment and provision of forklift operator at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

DEE/RS/ED, For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the title of **(1) S.Sharada Prasad** son of K.L.V.Subbaiah, residing at No. 171, 21st Main, J P Nagar, II Phase, Bangalore **(2) S.Lakshminarayan,** son of K.L.V.Subbaiah, residing at No.485, 47th Cross, Jayanagar, Bangalore **(3) M/s. Oasis Constructions,** a partnership firm having its office at No.10, 10th Main Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore and **(4) Metal Impacts Aerosols LLP [earlier known as M/s Alblance Private Limited],** a Limited Liability Partnership, having its office at 88/A, Koramangala Industrial Layout, Bangalore, being the joint owners **("Joint Owners")** of land having amalgamated katha No.7/253 (bearing Survey No. 43/1, 43/2, 44/4, 44/5, 44/6 and 44/7) measuring in total 5 acres 20 guntas, (2,39,580 square feet), situated at Doddakallasandra Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore District, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property". Purva Ruby Properties Private Limited, a private limited company having its registered office at No.130/1, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore **("Developer"),** has the development rights over the Schedule Property.

Any person/ entity, including inter-alia any bank and/or financial institution and/or authority, save and except for charge created in favour of: (i) Piramal Trusteeship Services Private Limited; and (ii) agreement holders with respect to units/area agreed to sold in respect of constructed area forming part of the Scheduled Property, having or claiming any direct or indirect claim, objection, demand, share, title, estate, right, interest and/or benefit in relation to or against the Schedule Property or any part/portion thereof, including, by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, right, title, interest, share, benefit, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, license, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, occupation, devise, covenant, trust, easement, gift, inheritance, beneficiary/ies, bequest, will, maintenance, possession, reservation, lis-pendens, option, development rights, release, relinquishment or by way of any other method through any family arrangement/settlement, litigation, agreement, deed, document, writing, muniment, conveyance deed, development agreement, letter of intent, succession, decree or order of any Court of Law, tribunal, quasi-judicial authority, revenue or statutory authority, any contracts, partnership or allotment or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature and/or against the Joint Owners and/or the Developer in relation to their rights, title or interest in the Schedule Property, must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within ten (10) days of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Joint Owners with respect to the Schedule Property and the rights of the Developer with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof or against the Joint Owners/the Developer in relation thereto. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the converted land having amalgamated katha No.7/253 (bearing Survey No. 43/1, 43/2, 44/4, 44/5, 44/6 and 44/7) measuring in **total 5 acres 20 guntas, (2,39,580 square feet),** presently bearing E-PID No.1489449282, situated at **Doddakallasandra Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore District,** and bounded as follows:

Sl No.	Survey No.	Acre/s	Guntal/s	Boundaries East by: E, West by: W, North by: N and South by: S.
1	43/1	1	6	**E:** Property bearing Survey No. 43/2. **W:** Property bearing Survey No. 42. **N:** Private Property. **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road.
2	43/2	2	10	**E:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/4. **W:** Property bearing Survey No. 43/1. **N:** Private Property. **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road.
3	44/4	0	27	**E:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/5. **W:** Property bearing Survey No. 43/2. **N:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/3. **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road.
4	44/5	0	22	**E:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/6. **W:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/4. **N:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/3. **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road.
5	44/6	0	25	**E:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/7 **W:** Property bearing Survey No.44/5 **N:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/3 **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road.
6	44/7	0	10	**E:** Private Property and Road. **W:** Property bearing Survey No. 44/6. **N:** Property bearing Survey No.44/3. **S:** Bangalore Kanakapura Road

Malini Raju, Vidhyadhare. S
AZB & Partners,
Level 5, 37 Cunningham, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru -560 052.
Email: malini.raju@azbpartners.com
Tel: + 91 80 4240 0500
Place: Bengaluru Date:13.06.2026

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Date- 22 June to 1 July 2026
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Course Fees- Regular-3000 +18 % GST
Course Fees- Student- 1500+18 % GST
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Project Organisation)

1.	Tender Notice No & Date	**Proj1MS_PRS_2026_03 Dated: 05.06.2026**
2.	Name of the Tender	Provision of Routers and Switches with Perpetual License and 3 Years Comprehensive Warranty for PRS Modernisation at Tier-2 & Tier-3 Locations and Last Mile Connectivity of all PRS Locations over Southern Railway
3.	Tender value in Rupees	Rs. 298037388.40
4.	Bid Security (EMD) in Rupees	Rs. 5960800.00
5.	Validity offer	90 days from the date of opening of tender
6.	Closing Date & Time	30.06.2026 before 15.00 hrs
7.	Period of completion	09 (Nine) Months.

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through **(www.ireps.gov.in).**

XSTE/PROJ/I/MS
For Dy.CSTE/Proj/I/MS

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, e-mail Id juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
JUIDCO
e-Procurement Notice Tender Notice
NIT No:. JUIDCO/NIT/Barharwa/UWSS/709 Date: 12/06/2026

1.	Name of the work	Barharwa Urban Water Supply Scheme with 5years of Operation and Maintenance
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering –http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 77,54,04,250/- (Seventy-seven crore Fifty-Four Lakhs Four thousand Two hundred Fifty Only/-)
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender Document Fee – Rs 25,000/- Bid Security – Rs 77,54,500/-
5.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	15/06/2026; 17:00 hours
6.	Last Date & Time of submission of pre-bid queries	20/06/2026; 17:00 hours
7.	Date & Time of pre-bid meeting	22/06/2026; 15:00 hours
8.	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	13/07/2026; 17:00 hours
9.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	14/07/2026; 17:00 hours
10.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Pin – 834001.
11.	Helpline No. of e-ProcurementCell	+91 651 2225878/ 9973768183

Note : Only e-tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website http//: jharkhandtenders.gov.in
PR 382298 Urban Development and Housing (26-27)_D

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT
Vacancy Notice

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals possessing prescribed eligibility criteria and having qualified GATE Exam in the year 2024 or 2025 or 2026 with valid GATE Score of 50% or above (i.e. GATE Score of 500 or above) in one of the specified subjects for Direct Recruitment to fill up 25 vacancies [tentative] in the grade of Senior Field Officer (Technical) [Level-10 of Pay Matrix, Group 'A', Gazetted] in Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India. The total initial monthly emoluments including all allowances will be Rs.1,30,000/- (approx) in the case of posting at New Delhi. Eligibility criteria, as on closing date, are as under:-

Age Limit	Educational Qualification
Not exceeding 35 years	Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Technology or Masters' degree in Science from a recognised University or Institution in one of the notified subjects [specified in detailed advertisement for SFO(Technical)]

For detailed information and application format, please refer to Employment News dated 13.06.2026.

Closing Date - 12.07.2026

CBC 58101/11/0003/2627

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT,
ROAD DIVISION, GUMLA-835207,
E-mail :- eercdgumla-jhr@nic.in

Short Term e-Procurement Notice
3rd Call
e-Tender Reference no.- **RCD/GUMLA /381 Dated :- 12.06.2026**

1	कार्य का नाम	पथ प्रमण्डल गुमला अन्तर्गत खूँटी– तोरपा– कोलेबिरा पथ के 61वें कि0मी0 में अवस्थित कोयल नदी पर उच्चस्तरीय सेतु (Span-7 x 35 m) निर्माण कार्य।
2	प्राक्कलित राशि	**Rs.- 175447957.00** (रू0 सत्रह करोड़ चौवन लाख सैतालीस हजार नौ सौ सत्तावन मात्र)
3	बीड सिक्युरिटी (राशि)	Rs.- 1755000.00
4	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	36 माह
5	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	16.06.2026 from 10.30 A.M.
6	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	01.07.2026 upto 12.00 Noon
7	निविदा खुलने का तिथि एवं समय	03.07.2026 at 12.30 P.M.
8	निविदा खुलने का स्थान	Chairman, e-Procurement Cell, RCD, Jharkhand, 3rd Floor, Project Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
9	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष संख्या	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, गुमला। मोबाईल न0– 8709076211
10	ई–मेल	eercdgumla-jhr@nic.in
11	ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल का सहायता दूरभाष संख्या	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
प0नि0वि0 पथ प्रमण्डल, गुमला

PR 382299 Road(26-27)#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that we, on behalf of our clients are investigating the title of Karnataka Veerashaiva Vidyabhivruddhi Samsthe ("KVVS"), a society registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, having its registered address at Property/ Municipal No.18/1, Kalyana Samuchhaya, 2nd floor, 6th Cross, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru 560 009, to all that piece and parcel of vacant and freehold land more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (referred to as the "said Land"), who have represented that they are the absolute owners of the said Land having clear and marketable title, free from any encumbrances (save and except the equitable mortgage created in the favour of Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank, Nagarbhavi), restrictions, claims, litigations, third party rights, etc. and that they are desirous of granting long term leasehold rights in respect of the said Land in favour of Global Bizprop Ventures Private Limited. All or any person(s)/entities including an individual, a company, any bank(s), financial institutions, non-banking financial institution(s), firm, an association of persons or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders, creditors etc. having any claim against the said Land or any part thereof or having any right, title, benefit, interest, share, claim, objection and/or demand in respect of the said Land or any part thereof either by way of any sale, transfer, exchange, agreement for sale, memorandum of understanding, joint development, joint venture, lease, sub-lease, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, bequest, succession, gift, devise, maintenance, right of way, easement(s), trust, inheritance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, care-taker basis, occupation, FSI, possession, family arrangement/settlement, lis-pendens, attachment, contracts/agreements, development rights, and/or conveyance, license either agitated in any litigation or any other right or interest whatsoever, litigation, award, judgment, decree or order of any court of law or tribunal or otherwise of any nature whatsoever howsoever to or upon the said Land or any part/s thereof, and/or has/have any other writing/ arrangement or otherwise howsoever into or upon or in respect of the said Land or any part thereof or on the basis of holding and/or possessing any of the title documents in respect of the said Land being deposited with them by KVVS or otherwise howsoever are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, to the undersigned within a period of 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice at M/s. Economic Laws Practice, 9th Floor, Mafatlal Centre, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021, together with copies of all documents on the basis of which such claims are made failing which, any such alleged right, title, benefit, interest, share, claim, objection and/or demand, if any, shall be deemed to have been waived/abandoned and not binding.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO (description of the said Land)

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Property/ Municipal Nos.18 and 18/2, having its E-PID no.1606194719 admeasuring 6,895.7 Sq. meters (equivalent to 74,225 square feet) lying, being and situate at Seshadri Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore 560 009 and bounded as follows:

On or towards the East:- Land bearing Municipal/ Property no. 17 (Private Property)
On or towards the West : 5th Main Road, Gandhinagar
On or towards the North: - Seshadri Road
On or towards the South: Land bearing Municipal/Property no. 18/1
Dated this 13/6/2026

M/s. Economic Laws Practice
(Advocates & Solicitors)
Sd/- Heena Chheda
Partner
Email: heenachheda@elp-in.com

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-1

Sub:- Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of Automatic Block Signalling Work utilizing Multi-Section Digital Axle Counters (MSDAC) for continuous track circuiting including associated auxiliary works at adjoining stations along with 4x48 OFC work in the Aunrihar Jn (ARJ) - Varanasi City (BCY) & Banaras (BNRS) - Prayagraj Rambag (PRRB) sections and EI (Indoor) works at Samath(SRNT), Kadipur (KDQ) and Rajwari(RJI) stns in the Varanasi Division of N.E. Railway. Ref: Tender No.NER_SnT_Proj_BSB_02_2026, Dt 22.05.2026 at 16:44 Hrs.

In reference to the subject tender, the following corrigendum 1 is issued herewith The last date of submission of bids against the above tender is extended from 02.07.2026 to 21.07.2026 up to 12:00 Tender will be open on 21.07.2026 at 12:30 All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Dy. CSTE/Project Varanasi
CPRO/Sig-54
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

CORRIGENDUM AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO.: N_01_HQ-2026-27

Corrigendum against Tender Notice No.: N_01_HQ-2026-27; Date: 08-05-2026 for the work: Provision of 4 ×48 fibers OFC for communication backbone in section Siliguri Jn. (SGUJ) - New Mal Jn. (NMZ) - Maynaguri Road (MYGD) - New Coochbehar (NCB)- Golakganj (GKJ) (271 RKM) under HUN6 Route covered in sanctioned KAVACH works. **Cost of work:** ₹27,07,07,990.74; **The above tender closing date now to be read as 19-06-2026 at 12.00 hrs.** instead of 09-06-2026 at 12:00 hrs. For details corrigendum kindly visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

GM (S&T), Maligaon, Ghy
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

ncil polls: Congress resort stay for MLAs

g scheduled in rt on June 16

party, to attend the meeting.

"It is likely that MLAs will be asked to stay back at the resort and head to the Vidhana Soudha for voting on June 18," a senior Congress leader told *DH*.

Each candidate requires a minimum of 28 votes to win. Based on the current party position in the Assembly, Congress can comfortably win four seats, while the BJP can bag two.

The Congress has fielded five candidates, including its state president B K Hariprasad. The other candidates are: P V Mohan, Shivanna B S, Thippanna Kamakanur and Vinay Karthik.

SENIOR CONG LEADER

"It is likely that MLAs will be asked to stay back at the resort and head to the Vidhana Soudha for voting on June 18.

SALEEM AHMED
Govt Chief Whip, Legislative Council

"Congress has enough numbers to win the seventh seat. All like-minded legislators will support the Congress candidate.

The BJP has nominated Lingaraj Patil and Raghu R (Kautilya).

It is the JD(S) that has forced an election by fielding its incumbent Govinda Raju.

Congress has 134 MLAs, BJP 62, and JD(S) 18. There are two Independents, one MLA each from the Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPP) and Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha (SKP). Three expelled BJP MLAs are serving as unattached members, while two seats remain vacant - one due to Congress' Vinay Kulkarni's disqualification and another following D Sudhakar's death.

Based on these numbers, Congress can elect four candidates with 28 votes each and still have a surplus of 22 votes. To win the seventh seat, Congress will need six additional votes.

The JD(S), with 18 MLAs, will be short of 10 votes to elect its candidate. Even if ally BJP transfers its six surplus votes, after securing the victory of its two candidates with the required 56 votes, the alliance tally would rise only to 24. JD(S) would still be four votes short.

nopposed to RS, Kharge hints uld be his last poll certificate

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka, on Friday hinted that it could be his "last" election certificate.

Kharge, while signing the document before collecting the certificate of election from the Assembly secretary (returning officer) at Vidhana Soudha, told Congress leaders accompanying him that it could be the last time he was signing the document.

Speaking to reporters, Kharge said, "It is my 13th election. I am fortunate as the Congress party has given me the opportunity to serve the people. I thank Sonia Gandhi. I also thank the people of Gulbarga and the party workers for giving me another opportunity to work with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and for their unwavering support during my stints in the Assembly and the Parliament. I also thank the media and the people, as I am the longest serving public representative."

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Election Commission over the Meenakshi Natarajan case, Kharge termed it "illegal, immoral and anti-democratic."

"This couldn't have happened without Modi Ji's directions. Modi has hatched a conspiracy and drafted his men as returning officer to finish the Congress party and democracy. It has happened in Jharkhand. They purchase or divide the votes and install an agent."

"They have posted RSS agents in crucial positions who flout every law and rule. All this proves the Election Commission is not impartial. ECI ruled differently in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh," said Kharge, adding the party would abide by the Supreme Court direction and approach the high court, though it felt it was a "special" case warranting a quick decision.

es MLC Naseer Ahmed, wife, son bankrupt

NCLT bench, comprising Sunil Kumar Aggarwal (judicial member) and Radhakrishna Sreepada (technical member) passed the order on an application filed by the State Bank of India, Canara Bank and IDBI Bank. The liquidation proceedings had commenced in 2019.

The NCLT has appointed an Insolvency Professional as Bankruptcy Trustee to take custody of all the assets and/estates of Naseer, his wife and son for recovering the dues to the creditors. The Bankruptcy Trustee is directed to take into his custody all the assets, properties, and actionable claims of the bankrupt and take necessary steps to ensure preservation, protection, security and maintenance of those properties, the NCLT order stated.

The consortium of banks had initiated the proceedings after the corporate debtor was classified as nonperforming asset (NPA) in 2018. The State Bank of India and IDBI Bank authorised the Canara Bank to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against Naseer and others. The bench noted that since no repayment plan was submitted by Naseer and other directors, during the Personal Insolvency Resolution Process, the creditors treated the absence of an approved repayment plan as a deemed repayment plan of 'nil' value.

Naseer to challenge order

Naseer Ahmed on Friday said he would challenge the NCLT order before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Chennai Bench. Reacting to the NCLT's June 8 order, Ahmed claimed that the ruling contained several contradictions and asserted that he had strong grounds to contest it before the appellate authority.

"There are many contradictions in the order. In Canara Bank's e-auction notice, the outstanding debt is shown as Rs 527 crore, whereas the Tribunal order mentions the liability as over Rs 1,454 crore," he said.

Ahmed also reiterated his objection to the invocation of personal guarantees by the lending banks. "We had furnished personal guarantees to SBICAP Trustee Company and not directly to the banks. Therefore, the banks have no right to invoke the guarantees. However, the Tribunal has overruled our objections," he said. "I will move the petition next week seeking to stay the proceedings," said Ahmed, as a stay would also stall his disqualification from the Upper House.

y offers silver sword to Kollur Mookambika

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay offers prayers at Sri Mookambika Temple in Kollur, Udupi district, on Friday.

thousands lined the roads leading to the temple. Chants of "Thalapathy Vijay" and "Jananayagan Vijay" echoed across the temple town as fans waved TVK flags and cheered his arrival.

Police personnel faced a challenging task in regulating the crowd and resorted to a mild lathi charge at a few places to prevent overcrowding.

Vijay later surprised security personnel by briefly walking towards supporters before leaving the temple.

Meanwhile, Udupi Police detained more than 20 Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Praveen Kumar Shetty faction) activists who attempted to stage a black-flag protest against Vijay over the Tamil Nadu government's opposition to the proposed Mekedatu project.

The protesters were taken into preventive custody and later released. Police said the action was taken to ensure the visit concluded peacefully.

Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DH DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE Pre-marital genetic testing, anyone?

BOOKS Check out our Pride Month special edition.

ART & PURSUITS Visit the India Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

TRAVEL The many delights of Male.

GENDER Who makes for an ally?

WELLNESS Factors that affect male fertility.

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Dharmasthala conspirators...

Dharmasthala, from Page 1

According to Chinna, a native of Mandya, Mahesh Timarodi had told him that the budget to the conspiracy was around Rs 200 crore. The petitioner stated that when he asked Thimarodi and Mattannavar about their source of income, they told him that the funds are received from Kerala and one of the major sources of income is one Rama Nagaraj, a woman from Chitradurga.

The petition stated that during 2023–24, when he was working at the Ujire gram panchayat, one Vittal Gowda had asked Chinna to tell Timarodi that several bodies were cremated at Dharmasthala and that skeletal remains were present. Subsequently, he was threatened and instructed to make statements exactly as dictated by Timarodi and Mattannavar.

The petitioner Chinna stated that after several trips to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and a visit to Delhi, he was trained at an advocate's office in Bengaluru regarding the exact statements he was to make before the judicial officer.

While giving a statement before the magistrate, though the court directed the advocates to vacate the premises, he proceeded with the statement that had been dictated to him owing to threats by Timarodi and Mattannavar.

During the preparations and training, one night at around 8 pm, Mattannavar called actor Prakash Raj and handed over the phone to Chinna. The petitioner stated that Prakash Raj spoke to him in Tamil and told him that he should state before the authorities whatever Mattannavar had instructed him to state and that he would come and embrace him.

According to the petitioner, while the search by the SIT did not yield ay results, unable to bear the torture by Timarodi and Mattannavar, one night he decided to disclose the truth before the SIT.

Fertiliser shortage hits state farmers ahead of kharif season

Shortfall attributed to import disruptions due to closure of Hormuz Strait

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has disrupted fertiliser supplies in Karnataka even as farmers are preparing for sowing operations with the onset of the monsoon.

According to data shared by the Agriculture Department, fertiliser availability from April to September is 34% lower than the demand. The shortage has particularly affected cotton-growing and pulse-producing regions, where DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) is widely used.

Agriculture officials are finding it difficult to persuade farmers to switch to alternative fertilisers, including complex fertilisers, amid concerns over their effectiveness and higher cost.

The situation has also triggered panic buying in several districts, forcing authorities to rationalise DAP distribution to ensure supplies reach a larger number of farmers.

The demand for DAP this season is 4 lakh tonnes whereas the supply is 2.55 lakh tonnes.

Meanwhile, farmers contended that they cannot afford to buy complex fertilisers due to its high cost.

Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir and other parts of Kalyana Karnataka are witnessing a heavy rush of farmers seeking to purchase DAP, as the region is a major producer of pulses such as tur, green gram and black gram, besides soybean.

According to Agriculture Joint Director (Kalaburagi) Samad Patel, the district has only 7,600 tonnes of DAP available against a requirement of 19,000 tonnes during April, May and June. In Bidar district, the available stock stands at 2,538 tonnes against a demand of 8,000 tonnes.

Officials attribute the shortfall to disruptions in imports following the closure of the Hormuz Strait, noting that nearly 60% of the state's DAP requirement is met through imports.

Hundreds of farmers gather at Nehru Gunj in Kalaburagi to purchase fertilisers. According to the Agriculture department, Kalaburagi district has only 7,600 tonnes of DAP available as against a requirement of 19,000 tonnes during the kharif season. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Fertilisers demand outruns supply
From April to September 2026 (In tonnes)

Fertilisers	Demand	Initial stock	Supply
DAP	4,00,000	1,68,185	87,769
MOP	2,12,000	76,925	53,393
Complex	11,88,000	5,88,513	3,57,030
Urea	11,10,000	2,80,157	2,96,368
SSP	95,000	40,301	18,369
Total	30,05,000	11,54,081	8,12,927

The uncertainty over supplies has triggered panic buying, with farmers continuing to throng fertiliser distribution centres across the region to secure stocks ahead of the sowing season.

Farmer leaders say that the cost of alternative fertiliser is more when compared to DAP. "The cost of complex fertilisers has increased to Rs 2,200 per 50 kg bag, while DAP costs Rs 1,350. The government should provide at least 40% subsidy to complex fertilisers to reduce the financial burden on farmers who have already suffered crop loss due to flood and heavy rainfall last year," Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangh Kalaburagi district president Sharanabasappa Mamashetty said.

DR G T PUTHRA
Director, Agriculture Department

"Karnataka is facing a severe shortage of DAP as nearly 60% of the fertiliser is imported. While 80–90% of urea and complex fertilisers are produced domestically, their production has also been affected by shortages of key raw materials such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), ammonia and phosphoric acid due to the conflict.

According to an estimation, one packet of DAP fertiliser is required for sowing tur on one acre of land. A large number of farmers own between 5 and 25 acres in the region. They are being issued tokens and supplied with only two packets of fertiliser each. Farmers have expressed dissatisfaction, saying such a limited quantity is insufficient for their cultivation needs.

Agriculture Joint Director (Yadgir) Ratendranath Sugur said that the officials are rationalising the distribution of DAP due to its short supply. He also said that the district has only 46,000 tonnes fertilisers as against the requirement of 1,52,000 tonnes.

He also said that they had been informed that fertiliser supplies would remain constrained for the next two months.

NMDC in dock

NMDC, From Page 1

The other complaint includes the failure to establish an effluent treatment plant, failure to establish an environment laboratory and not installing the requisite number of ambient air quality monitoring stations as stipulated in the general condition of October 2004 EC.

The MoEF&CC's show-cause notice comes after months of struggle by the people of Sandur who protested against negative impact on health caused by the mining industry. Under the banner of Jana Sangrama Parishath and Samaja Parivarthana Samudaya, the people of Sandur had written to the ministry more than six months ago to highlight statutory violations of the law.

In January, the ministry conducted a site inspection of the plant, whose report has become the basis for the notice.

Rajesh Ramakrishnan, convener of Campaign to Defend Nature and People and associated with the Parishath, said they were happy that the ministry has taken the first step. "Though the site inspection report listed several findings, it downplayed major violations as minor non-compliances. The notice doesn't talk about the false compliance report submitted by NMDC, an offence that makes the company liable to lose its EC. Secondly, the issue of pilferage from NMDC has been ignored by the ministry even though police have registered FIRs," he added.

Sreeshaila Aladahalli, a resident of Sandur and

Thousands of Bagair Hukum cultivators struggle to purchase

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

The government having made it a precondition for farmers to provide their Farmer Identity (FID) number for the purchase of fertiliser, the thousands of farmers engaged in cultivation of Bagair Hukum land have been left in the lurch.

Given that only farmers with title deeds to their land are eligible to purchase fertilisers, it is virtually impossible for those cultivating Bagair Hukum land to stock up on fertiliser.

Leaders of farmers' organisations have therefore urged the state government to take cognisance of their plight, and secure the interests of small farmers. Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene president H R Basavarajappa conceded that the government's objective behind mandating FID was a legitimate one.

"It is aimed at preventing the sale of fertilisers on the black market, but Bagair Hukum cultivators have been badly affected by this decision. Bagair Hukum land accounts for more than 23 lakh acres across the state, with Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Dharwad and Belagavi districts boasting a large number of farmers who have no title deeds. How can they tend to their land without fertiliser. Also, the government must allot a minimum of two bags of urea to every farmer instead of one," Basavarajappa told *DH*. He also enjoined on the Congress top brass to appoint an Agriculture Minister at the earliest.

Joint Director of Agriculture Ziaullah Khan admitted that the FID rule adversely impacted Bagair Hukum cultivators.

Government of Kranataka
Office Of Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chitradurga.
phone No: 08194-200329 Email:eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com
No:RDWS&SD/CTA/TS/TENDER/2026-27/149 Date: 11.06.2026

Tender Notification

On behalf of the Honarable Governor of Karnatakaas per the provisions of the Standard Tender Document, tender is invited for the Chitradurga and Molakalmur Taluk Water Supply related Works under SDP Grant, Single-Cover System through KPPP portal from eligible Civil Contractors Total 08 Works, Estimate Cost: Rs.155.81 Lakhs, Last date for Tender Submission: 22.06.2026 and Technical/Financial bid opening Date: 23.06.2026 For more information contact Executive Engineer's office during working hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/163/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Division, K.C.D. Circle, Behind Ganapati Temple, Dasanakoppa Main Road, Dharwad-580001
Ph No. 0836-2955347 E-mail id: eesliddwd@gmail.com
No.EE/KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/O & M-Manpower/Tender/2026-27/211 Date : 11/06/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH "Karnataka Public Procurement Portal" ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore , the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLI Division, Dharwad District in Karnataka invites tenders in two cover system on PERCENTAGE basis from the eligible contractors for the work of "Operation and Maintenance of Micro Irrigation system for 9900Ha command Area Comes under Shiggaon Lift Irrigation System includes intake canal,Jackwell/pumphouse,M. S Raising Main pipeline, Delivery Chambers,110/6.6 Kv Substation,and Micropipeline with HDPE/ PVC pipe line network, Discharge control valve, Air valve, Panel cum Store rooms, 119 No's Sumps , 110/33 kV (1No) and 33/11 kV (2 No's) Electrical sub-stations, electrical distribution network. Diversion weir and Gates, DG Room for one year (From 2026-27 to 2027-28)" (Tender amount of Rs. **279.93** Lakhs) through KPP-portal of Government of Karnataka. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **17/06/2026** @ 11.00 a.m. onwards and can be submitted the completed e-tendering documents up to **29/06/2026** @ 4.00 p.m. The Pre-bid meeting is on **20/06/2026** @ 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon LI Division, Dharwad. The technical bid will be opened on **30/06/2026** @ 4.30 p.m. and financial bids of successful tenderers will be opened on **04/07/2026** @11.00 a.m. (or after obtaining approval to the Technical Bid).

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the e-Procurement portal only. The undersigned reserves the right to postpone, accept, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- (Manjunath.B.)
Executive Engineer, KNNL,
DIPR/DWD/299/KSMCA/2026-27 **SLI DIVISION, DHARWAD**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4192) (Fax:080 25084155)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Name of work	Miscellaneous Airconditioning Works at Main Campus and ISITE Campus, URSC, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/0053/ETN-01/2026-27 Dt.11.06.2026
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 23.99 Lakhs
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 18:00 Hrs. on 12.06.2026 to 23:30Hrs. on 26.06.2026
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 47,980/- (Validity for 180 days)**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in **website: www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Group Director
(Construction & Maintenance Group)

Kannada University, Hampi, Vidyaranya, Hospet Taluk, Vijayanagar District
No. KUH:RG/S.T(E-Tender) /2026-27 Date: 11.06.2026

Short Term Tender (E-Tender)

The Kannada University has been granted approval for the work Supplying and Installation of CCTV System in Main Roads, Entrance Gates and Auditorium at Kannada University Hampi Campus. Across 745 acres under the GDQ and general quota by the Karnataka Regional Development Board of the year 2024-25. Eligible tenderers are Registered with the Government of India are invited to participate in an itemwise short-term tender via e-Procurement for this project. Tender forms will be available for download at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ from June 11, 2026, until June 24, 2026, at 4.00 PM. Bidders are required to submit the completed forms along with the necessary documents and the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). The technical bids will be opened on June 29, 2026, at 11:00 AM, followed by the opening of financial bids from those who pass the technical evaluation. Please note that the total bill will include an 18% GST. For enquiries, please contact: The Registrar, Kannada University Hampi, Vidyaranya-583276 Hosapete (Taluk), Vijayanagar District.

Sig/- Registrar
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/139

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(P)/TKR/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2026-27/1178-80 Date: 11.06.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for Tender on KPP portal, for INDENT No.: **KPTCL/2026-27/SE2391.**

1. Conducting Modern Detailed Survey for Construction of 66kV DC radial line on DC towers from existing 66kV Dasudi S/s to proposed 66kV Hoysalakatte sub-station with panther ACSR on 110kV Towers for a distance of about 10.00 Kms in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk,Tumakuru District.

2. Conducting Detailed Modern Survey for stringing of Second Circuit from Dasudi Tap point to Dasudi sub-station for Providing LILO arrangement to 66kV Dasudi sub-station with Coyote Conductor for a distance of 29.00kms, for Establishing 2x20 MVA sub-station at Hoysalakatte in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk, Tumakuru dist.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPPP website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** OR KPTCL web site **www.kptcl.karanataka.gov.in** or click on hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** on or after **15.06.2026 @15:00 hrs.** Any Extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the kpp Portal, any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

All Corrigendum / Addendum shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (El.),
Trans (Project) Circle, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", Ground Floor, Kothithopu Road, Tumakuru.

Government
OFFICE OF THE INSPE POLICE, SOTHERN
Hyder Ali Road, Kittur Rani Chennamm
Phone: 0821-2421200, 2418604, Email: aaos

Tender Notification (Call-2)

Inspector General of Police, Southern tender (Call-2) for Supply & Installatio the jurisdiction of Mysuru District as scheme 2025-26.

Sl No	Tender Number and Date
01	KSP/2025-26/IND0548/CALL-2 Date:11.06.2026

Date and other related information c portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in fo the above office.

DIPR/MYSURU/328/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

GOVERNMENT O
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINE
MANGALURU DIVISI
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(11E): 2026-27:J

SHORTERM TENDE
(Karnataka Public E-P

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Div under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.k** Tenderers in accordance with KTPP **Head of Account 5054-03-337-0 Improvements.** The Last date for re 17.00 Hours.

In the above work cost of estimate the above works are invited as per t KW-4. Further details such as valu EMD etc., can be accesse **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Furth O/o, Case Worker, Executive Eng Division, Mangaluru during official w 2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/358/26-27 dt.12.06.2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/4702/TND/2026-27/870 Date:11.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 5 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.374.71 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Six (6) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 5 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.18.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702 TSP Works :- Total 3 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.10.80 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702 Consultancy Works :- Total 1 Work(2nd Call), Amount put to Tender **Rs.1.81 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works is One (1) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **11.06.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **20.06.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **19.06.2026.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/149/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur**

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ
ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜ
ದೂ: 080–27833730 E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.he
ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ನೋ/ಸಿಆರ್/02/2026–27

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–276 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ರಿಂದ 06 ರವರೆಗಿನ **11.06.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಹ 01.07.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 07 ರಿಂದ 11 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.06.2026 ರಿಂದ ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸ **ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11**

ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸ **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 5.11 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 4**

1	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56283	7	DMA/2026-2
2	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT59180	8	DMA/2026-2
3	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56281	9	DMA/2026-2
4	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT52568/ CALL-3	10	DMA/2026-2
5	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT52567/ CALL-3	11	DMA/2024-2
6	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT54423 /CALL-3		

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ರಾಜು
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

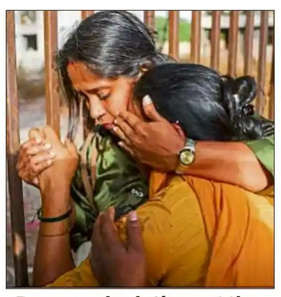
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/1128/2026–27

ಸಹಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂತೋಷ್
ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿ
ನಗರಸಭೆ,

AI crash: No timeline for final report

No specific details about probe status, findings

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD, AGENCIES



Bereaved relatives at the crash site on the first anniversary of the tragedy, in Ahmedabad on Friday. REUTERS

Aircraft accident probe agency AAIB on Friday issued an interim statement on the probe into Air India's AI-171 plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12 last year, and said the final report would be released upon completion of all investigative activities, requisite international review and consultation processes.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said the investigation team had undertaken an extensive and rigorous examination of all relevant technical, operational, organisational and human factors associated with the accident over the last year.

It did not provide a timeline for the final report, nor specific details about the probe status or findings so far.

The update was met with scepticism from some families, who gathered in Ahmedabad to mourn the victims.

In its interim statement on the progress of the probe, the AAIB said it remained firmly committed to conducting a thorough, independent, objective and evidence-based investigation.

"The final report will be released upon completion of all investigative activities and the requisite international review and consultation processes prescribed under ICAO Annex 13," it said.

ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Annexure 13 refers to investigations into aircraft accidents.

According to the AAIB, the investigation had been supported by accredited representatives, technical advisers and subject matter experts from relevant organisations.

Meanwhile, the AAIB noted that the sole purpose of an accident investigation was to enhance aviation safety through the identification of lessons and safety recommendations, and not to apportion blame or liability.

"Accordingly, the AAIB urges all stakeholders, including the media and the public, to refrain from speculation or premature conclusions while the investigation remains in progress," the statement said.

Emotions run high at crash site on anniversary of tragedy

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A mother sobbed into the folds of her saree, while another wailed as she gazed at damaged buildings from behind iron gates. Another family came with a pastor to offer prayers for their departed son and daughter-in-law.

Emotions ran high as families of the 260 people killed in last year's plane accident in Ahmedabad gathered near the crash site on Friday evening to mark the first anniversary of crash.

The crash killed 241 passengers and 19 on the ground. Only one passenger survived.

Several families said even after 365 days, the government was not able to find what led to the disaster. "We don't understand why the report has been delayed. It's been a year now. A comprehensive report should have come by now," David Christian, who lost his son and daughter-in-law in the accident, told reporters at the site.

At the crash site, a large police contingent was deployed and the road was cordoned off to make way for a 'bhajan sandhya' held in memory of 12-year-old Akash Patni and other victims of the tragedy.

Patni was at a tea stall near the BJ Medical College hostel buildings when the crashing aircraft claimed his life. His family had erected a life-size cutout adorned with flowers at the site. His mother Sitaben remained inconsolable.

Earlier in the day, the British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, visited the crash site and paid her respects to the victims.

At the medical college, earlier in the day, junior doctors and other staff planted 260 saplings and held prayers for the victims.

The state government said it would redevelop the hostel complex at a cost of Rs 547 crore.

Kin question AI pay clause

AHMEDABAD, DHNS : Gunjan Chaudhary, who lost his two-month-pregnant wife in the tragedy, said he would not accept the full and final compensation offered by the airline until the investigation report was released.

Chaudhary said he refused to sign the waiver that would require victims' families to forgo their right to pursue legal action against the airline and other entities. He is among a few of the victims' families who have declined Air India's "full and final" settlement, which requires them to sign a document that would take away their existing and future claims.

Nilesh Senta — who lost his brother, who was 25 years old, and sister in the tragedy — told *DH* that the waiver clause was objectionable and should never have been included in the offer.

Meta's social networks down for thousands of users

REUTERS: Facebook-parent Meta said on Friday that users were having trouble accessing the social media company's services.

"We're aware people are currently having trouble accessing our services. We're working on it," the company's spokesperson Andy Stone said on X. Meta did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the cause of the outage,

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email:bswmlee4@gmail.com

No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/05/26-27 Date: 12.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPP Only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amout put to tender Excluding GST (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration (Including Monsoon)	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of 01 no. new Passenger Lift replacing existing Passenger Lift at Office of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited	16.94	30 Days	45,000/-

Calendar of Events:

1. Last date for submission of the bids: 02.07.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.
2. Date of opening of bid on: 03.07.2026 at 16.30 Hrs.

1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
2. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/1148/AKAR/2026-27

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Madhugiri. Phone : 08137 - 283336.

No. : E.E./P.W.D./Dvn./A.E.-1/Tender/26-27/321 Date : 12-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Tender Ref. No. : 09/2026-27)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, **The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri,** invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the Works. **(Sira and Madhugiri Taluk) Approx. Amount for the Work is Rs 80.55 Lakhs.**

Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the KPPP Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://kppp.gov.in. Tenders must be Submitted through KPPP Portal on or before 16-06-2026 (upto 4.00 p.m.), Technical Bids will be opened on 17-06-2026 after 4.15 p.m, Financial Bid will be Opened on 18-06-2026 after 4.15 p.m.

Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP Portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Division, Madhugiri.

DIPR/Tumakuru/33/Manipal/2026-27

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064
website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice
No.RWF/W/26-27/07dtd. 11.06.2026

E- TENDERS: On Behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).
Tender No: W.496/RWF/YNK/1087
Description: Construction of building for storage and office accommodation, improvements to roads, sheds and buildings for stores inside factory premises of RWF **Estimated Value in Rs.** 27762704.53 **EMD Amount in Rs.** 555300.00 **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:** 02.07.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Dy. Chief Engineer

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No. 37/2025-26/Call-2 Dt.25.03.2026

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for the **works approved** under this division with KW-3&4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems, which has been approved under the head of account 4059-80-051-0-60-422 SCP for the year 2025-26. The **Min APT is Rs.121.02 Lakhs and Max APT is Rs.128.36 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.00 Lakhs.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 09.06.2026 to 18.06.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-III & above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours.

Note: 1) Undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders and cancel the tender process and reject all tenders ant any time prior to the award of contract. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Mysuru Division, Mysuru

DIPR/DDMYS/304/KSMCA/212/2026-27

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru-560029
Ph: 080-29753350 E-mail : karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

No: KBOCWWB/E-Auction/ FD2&FD(a)/CR-06/2026-27 Date: 05.06.2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting E-Auction for interest rate bids on Investment of Surplus Funds in Fixed Deposit/ Non-callable & Callable for one year through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka.

***

Board is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-bidding on the KPPP portal of Govt. of Karnataka from the Regional / Zonal / Head Offices of the Nationalized banks for Non-callable Fixed / Term Deposits of 'Surplus funds' of approx. Rs. 700.00 crore(Non-callable) & Rs.101.00 Crore(Callable) (Rupees Seven Hundred crore & one Hundred & one Crore only) for one year.

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) and last date for applying is on 23.06.2026 before 16:00 Hrs. For further information please contact Deputy Controller of the Board Phone: 080-29753350/54/56, Mob: 9739441766 during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary
KB&OCWWB

DIPR/CP/1149/AKAR/2026-27

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Chief Health Officer (PH) Office, Annex Building-2, GBA Head Office, N.R.Square, Bangalore-02.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಓ/ಎನ್.ಯು.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ/ಪಿಆರ್/NC–04/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12.06.2026

PRESS NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for recruitment through walk-in-interview on full contract basis for various category of vacant posts in Namma Clinics under PM-ABHIM SPARSH Yojana for the period upto 30.09.2026.

Sl no	PROGRAMME NAME	NAME OF THE POST	NO OF POST	EDUCATION QUALIFICATION	ROASTER RPC	ROASTER HK	SALARY / MONTH	Walk in place, Date and Time
1.	PM-ABHIM SPARSH	MEDICAL OFFICER	30	MBBS with KMC registration. Age limit: 45 years	RPC-28 (GM-14 (oth-2, F-5,R-4,-PH-1,EMP-1,KM-1) SC-A-2 (oth-1,F-1),SC-B-2 (oth-1,F1), SC-C-1 oth, ST-1-(oth-1), CAT1-1-oth 2A-4 (oth-1,F-1,R-1,PH-1) 2B-1-oth, 3A-1-oth 3B-1-oth	HK-2 (GM-1 oth) SC-A-1 oth,	60,000/-	PLACE: ANNEX-3, 3RD FLOOR, ROOM NO 304, CPMO OFFICE DATE: 19.06.2026 TIME: 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM
2.		STAFF NURSE	04	Bsc Nursing/ Diploma in Nursing/Post certified B.sc Nursing. Age limit: below 45 years	RPC-4 (GM-2 (oth-1,F-1), SC-A-1-oth,ST-1-oth	—-	20,594/-	
3.		LAB TECHNICIAN	01	ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION: Intermediate (10+2) and Diploma or certified course in Medical Laboratory Technology or equivalent OR Should be compulsorily passed in Science subject in 2nd P.U.C OR 2Yrs lab technician course in Karnataka Paramedical Board Age limit: 40 years	GM-OTH-1	—-	18,396/-	
4.		JUNIOR HEALTH ASSISTANT	02	SSLC or equivalent qualification and Health Worker Training from SIHFW Or / SSLC or equivalent qualification with 3yrs of Diploma in Health Inspector from State Paramedical Board Or / PUC Science with 2yrs of Diploma in Health Inspector from State Paramedical Board. / Must be registered in State Paramedical Board. Age limit: 40 years	RPC-2 (GM-1 oth,SC-A-1-oth.)	—-	20,404/-	

Knowledge of Kannada language is mandatory for candidates. Interested candidates are advised to download the application form available on the GBA website and attend the walk-in-interview on the date and place mentioned above along with the filled application form, 02 copies of the checklist and one self-attested xerox copy of relevant original educational documents and 2 photographs. The Authority shall have the power to increase or decrease the number of such posts. For more details, contact the website of Greater Bengaluru Authority : **www.bbmp.gov.in.**
Special Note: The said publication is subject to NHM/PM-ABHIM SPARSH guidelines.

Sd/-
Chief Health Officer (PH) Greater Bangalore Authority

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Division, K.C.D.Circle , Behind Ganapati Temple, Dasanakoppa Main Road , Dharwad-580 001.
E-mail id: eesliddwd@gmail.com Ph No. 0836-2955347

No.KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/ Tender/2026-27/215 Dt:11-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (4th Call)

(THROUGH " KPP-Portal " ONLY)

Ref : 1. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Savanur Additional/ Tender/2025-26/884, Dated: 21-01-2026
2. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/Tender/ 2025-26/968 , Dated:16-02-2026
3. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/Tender/ 2026-27/45 , Dated:18-04-2026

On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLI Division. Dharwad , Karnataka invites 3 Nos of tenders on Turnkey basis in Two Cover System from the eligible registered Civil Contractor. The intending bidders can submit their bids as an individual /firm/company for the work of

" Filling up of Additional 26 Tanks under Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Scheme"(Extension of Hotanhalli and Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme) (i) Package–1 : Pumping Machinery and Construction of Sump Cum Pump House and Construction of substation & Construction of tapping point and erection of 11kV SC Line and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender Rs.349.86 Lakhs) (ii) Package–2 : Construction of Rising main for a length of 7.760 Km of HDPE Pipe for extension of Hothanahalli tank filling scheme and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender Rs.413.25 Lakhs) (iii) Package–3 : Construction of Bleeder 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 Distribution of HDPE and Construction of Gravity Distribution Network of Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender Rs.420.70 Lakhs) through KPP- portal of Government of Karnataka.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **17-06-2026, 11.00 a.m.** onwards and completed e-tendering documents can be submitted up to **29-06-2026, 4.00 p.m.** The Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled on **20-06-2026 at 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** in the office of **Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon LI division, Dharwad.** The technical bid will be opened on **30-06-2026 at 4.30 p.m.** and financial bids of successful tenders will be opened on **04-07-2026 at 11.00 a.m.** or after obtaining approval to the Technical Bid.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP-portal only. The undersigned reserves the right to postpone, accept, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- (Manjunath.B)
Executive Engineer,
KNNL, SLI DIVISION DHARWAD.

DIPR/Dharwad/ 303/Manipal/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, No.44, 18th Main road, 39th Cross, Jayanagar 4th T block, Bengaluru-560041.
Telephone: 080-22975711, e-mail: eejayanagarbbmp@gmail.com

No.EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/04/2026-27 Date: 12-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP only)

1. The Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the work detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the government of Karnataka (viz: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract (standard tender document.) **2.** The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the government of Karnataka. **3.** Other details can be seen in the tender document.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Est Cost (Rs in Lakhs)/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Clearing the fallen tree and tree branches at Jayanagar Constituency for the year 2026-27. Estimate Cost **Rs. 12.00 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs.30,000/-,** Stipulated Period : **1 Month.**

Calender of events : 1) Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in e portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **On 22-06-2026 at 16.00 P.M.**
2) Date and Time of Opening Bids on the e-Portal: **On 23-06-2026 at 16.05 P.M.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Chief Engineer Electy, O&M Zone, GESCOM Ballari, Ph: 94483 59029
CIN:U4010KA2002SGC030436
E-Mail:ceeballari@gmail.comBallari.

No: CEE/BLZ/SEE(O)/AEE(1,2)/2026-27/F-74/2355 Date: 10.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-procurement mode only)

1. Mincheri village in the name of the Project Manager, PMO, CCE (R&D), DRDO, work Ballari.

The Chief Engineer Electy., O&M Zone, GESCOM, Ballari invites the tender for "Creating Electrical infrastructure for arranging power supply to an extent of 1250KVAinstallationon 11KV class at Mincheri village in the name of the Project Manager, PMO, CCE (R&D), DRDO, Delhi in O&M section-II in O&M Rural sub-division, Rural Division GESCOM, Ballarion Partial turnkey basis" (Poles & ACSR Conductor will be supplied by GESCOM) in e-procurement mode only.

Amount put to Tender Approx.Rs. 126.16 lakhs (excluding GST)

For more details logon to the website http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in on or after Dt: 16.06.2026 onwards

Last date of submission of bid is 03.07.2026 @ 05:00PM.

For any clarification & details please contact the office of the undersigned during office hours Ph. No. 9448359029/ 9449597446/9448999962/9448999963 on all working days. E-Procurement Help-Desk contact No:080-22371090/080-22340948.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
O&M Zone, GESCOM, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/232

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Abuse of process, justice at a price

By quashing the proceedings against *Newsclick*, the Delhi High Court ended the persistent harassment of the media house by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW). Over six years, the news portal was subjected to a series of hostile actions, including raids, the arrest of its founder-editor Prabir Purkayastha, and cases under the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The court's language is striking. Stating that the case would entail a "gross abuse of the process of law," it noted "only bald assertions that did not even remotely point" to an offence. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna quashed both the cases. The ED and the Delhi Police EOW are set to appeal the High Court judgment.

The Court's ruling and observations are a serious indictment of the two agencies. In 2024, when the Supreme Court quashed Purkayastha's arrest under the PMLA, it criticised the processes followed in the arrest: "...nothing but a clandestine attempt to circumvent the due process of law." Purkayastha had already spent over seven months in jail by then. The High Court has now expressed similar views about the processes followed in the two cases. It said: "...there is not a whisper of any incriminating allegation which would suggest the commission of the offence punishable under the PMLA." It took apart every charge raised by the agencies against the news portal and found no illegality or wrongdoing that attracted any provision of the law invoked.

Another fallen case exposes enforcement overreach, with the burden of proof falling on the accused

Questions about the authenticity of the charges were raised when *Newsclick*'s premises were raided, and its employees were interrogated. Condemned by the Editors Guild of India and the journalist community, the action was seen as a response to the independent journalism practised by the media house. This is not the first time cases filed by investigative agencies against critics of the government and dissenters under draconian laws have collapsed in court. Every charge has now been disproved, but establishing innocence involved pain, hardship, and losses, and that itself has become punishment. Agencies can go after any individual or organisation under the most stringent of laws, with little or no evidence of wrongdoing, as the court demonstrated in this case. The burden, still, falls on the accused. Notably, the court said the action against *Newsclick* was not only *mala fide* but also an attack on the free press. It also violated constitutional rights.

Social justice cannot remain on hold

The submission of Karnataka's Social and Educational Survey report to the outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently should have marked the culmination of a decade-long exercise. Instead, its future once again hangs in the balance amid opposition from influential sections that fear its far-reaching consequences. The state has spent close to Rs 1,000 crore across separate backward classes commissions and surveys. Yet, successive governments have followed the same playbook whenever uncomfortable findings emerge: question the methodology, defer action, and order another study. The state again risks entering that cycle.

The survey's purpose is evidence-based social reform. Reservation policy and welfare schemes cannot be based indefinitely on demographic assumptions from the first caste census of 1931 or on political bargaining between dominant communities. Governments require contemporary empirical data, as repeatedly stressed by the Supreme Court, to identify which groups remain socially, educationally, and economically disadvantaged. The survey has identified several of the most backward communities that have remained excluded from progress for decades despite reservation policies. The report broadly reaffirms what earlier commissions suggested: Karnataka's backward classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and minorities together constitute the majority, while politically dominant communities such as Lingayats and Vokkaligas are smaller than traditionally perceived. It is this possibility that has generated resistance – and explains why the new Chief Minister, D K Shivakumar, had previously opposed the report. Dominant communities fear that official recognition of their lower numbers could erode their administrative and political influence.

Karnataka must act on evidence from the social-educational survey, not yield to political expediency

History offers a lesson. In 1986, the Venkataswamy Commission recommended excluding dominant communities from the backward classes list, but the Ramakrishna Hegde government buried the report under intense political pressure. Later exercises met a similar fate. The Kantharaj survey remained unpublished for years before being revised and updated. On population demographics and backwardness, however, successive commissions have broadly pointed in the same direction. Endless postponement serves only those who benefit from the *status quo*. Structural reform is sometimes necessary to ensure that affirmative action reaches the most deprived sections rather than those with the greatest political clout. If deficiencies exist, they should be transparently addressed rather than used as a pretext for indefinite delay. The fact that no Dalit has held the Chief Minister's office in the state since independence – despite forming a significant share of the population – illustrates how far social justice has to travel. It cannot remain hostage to electoral calculations. The reservations' objective is to empower the most disadvantaged, and Karnataka must have the courage to act on evidence rather than political convenience.

AGAINST THE TIDE

India's coastal risks no longer arrive in isolation

Policy must approach coastal hazards as interlinked risks, not disconnected events, to build lasting resilience

SONY R K

When Cyclone Montha made landfall near Kakinada on the Andhra Pradesh coast in October 2025, it caused damage estimated at nearly Rs 53 billion to farms, roads and buildings. Yet, the most enduring damage did not come from the cyclone alone. Cyclone-associated storm surges pushed saltwater deep into agricultural land, leaving fields unusable long after the cyclone had passed. Similar patterns were observed after Cyclones Amphan and Yaas in the Sundarbans, where salinity lingered in soils and ponds for months, damaging agriculture and fisheries well beyond the immediate disaster. For many coastal communities, the crisis is no longer defined by just the loss of a single harvest but by the gradual erosion of livelihoods across consecutive seasons.

The southwest monsoon this year is forecast to remain below the long-period average, but a weaker monsoon does not necessarily mean a safer coastline. Even in weaker monsoon years, India's eastern coast can still experience severe flooding and storm surges. Meanwhile, sea-level rise and coastal flooding have accelerated sharply in recent decades, and more than a third of India's coastline experienced erosion between 1990 and 2018.

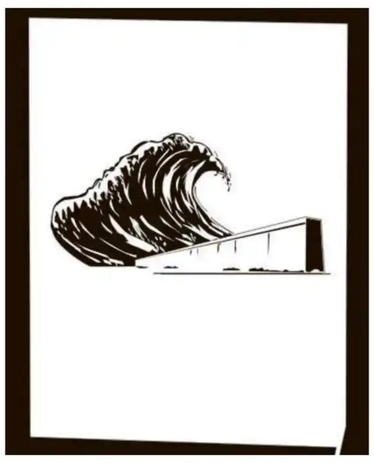
The danger lies not only in these hazards individually, but in how they reinforce one another. Cyclones such as Amphan, Yaas, and Montha have shown how flooding, storm surges, and salinity intrusion can combine to create damage that persists long after the rain stops.

For India's 11,000-km coastline, which supports more than 250 million people, dealing with such multiple hazards demands a hard look at coastline governance. The current approach treats flooding, salinity, erosion, and storm surges as separate events handled by separate departments, which cannot address the compound risks our coastline faces.

Coastal hazards do not occur in isolation. Sea-level rise raises the baseline for future storm surges. Cyclones erode shorelines and push saltwater into soils and aquifers. Erosion lowers coastal elevation, increasing exposure to future flooding. Each hazard amplifies the impact of the next.

In Mumbai, studies have shown that heavy rainfall during high tide causes far greater damage than the same rainfall at low tide. Rising sea levels will intensify these risks further. Across the Sundarbans, repeated storm surges have left behind long-term salinity damage that persists well after floodwaters recede.

Despite these linkages, currently, in India, each hazard is treated as a separate problem. Seawalls are built to prevent erosion. Embankments are raised to contain flooding. But interventions that appear effective in isolation can create new risks elsewhere. For example, seawalls along parts of the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coastlines have narrowed beaches and disrupted sediment flows. More importantly, a seawall that



stabilises one stretch of coast often displaces erosion onto another. Embankments designed to contain floodwaters can also trap saltwater inland, prolonging agricultural damage after cyclones. This is maladaptation – not the absence of action, but action that creates new vulnerabilities while attempting to solve existing ones.

Coastal planning can no longer treat flooding, erosion, and salinity as separate risks. Adaptation strategies must recognise how hazards interact across ecosystems, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Fragmented institutional response

The deeper problem is institutional fragmentation. No single institution is responsible for managing the compounding risks facing India's coastline, and governance remains organised around isolated hazards rather than interconnected ones. Multiple ministries govern India's coast, but their policies rarely operate together. Port expansion under the Sagarmala Programme has proceeded alongside mangrove restoration under the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme, with little coordination between the two. Large coastal infrastructure projects often receive greater political and financial priority than slower ecosystem-based adaptation measures.

Meanwhile, institutions such as the National Coastal Mission (NCM), tasked with addressing climate impacts and promoting sustainable coastal development, have faced years of weak financial support, while integrated coastal management efforts remain unevenly implemented. Data on erosion, flooding, salinity intrusion, and shoreline change also remain dispersed across multiple agencies, which makes integrated coastal planning difficult. The recent extension of the NCM and renewed funding support signal growing recognition of the problem, but they will achieve little unless coastal governance shifts from fragmented responses to integrated adaptation.

India's coasts are being reshaped not only by climate change, but also by governance systems designed for a simpler hazard environment than the one that exists today. What is needed is not another isolated coastal programme, but a shift in governing logic. Flooding, erosion, salinity and sea-level rise can no longer be managed separately by disconnected institutions. Coastal adaptation must be anticipatory rather than reactive, combining ecosystem-based approaches, resilient infrastructure, and integrated planning across multiple hazards.

India already has examples that point in the right direction. Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha, one of India's largest mangrove ecosystems, has long functioned as a natural buffer against cyclone surges and coastal erosion. Unlike seawalls, mangroves reduce wave energy without displacing erosion elsewhere and support biodiversity and local livelihoods.

The MISHTI scheme, launched in 2023 to restore mangroves along coastlines and tidal mudflats, reflects growing recognition of the importance of ecosystem-based adaptation. In Kerala, some coastal panchayats have begun integrating community-based monitoring into local land-use planning, allowing for quicker, more context-sensitive responses to erosion and flooding. What these approaches share is a recognition that coastlines are dynamic systems, not static barriers to be engineered against one hazard at a time. The challenge is not to replace infrastructure with ecological approaches, but to integrate different forms of adaptation within a broader multi-hazard framework.

The 2026 monsoon is at our door, and cyclone season follows soon after. If we are to protect communities and ecosystems from damage that lasts longer, travels further inland, and becomes harder to reverse, governance must change as quickly as the coastline itself.

(The writer is an associate fellow at Sustainable Futures Collaborative)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A home for diversity

A simple morning walk reveals Bengaluru's multicultural rhythm

G MOHAN PRASAD

Having lived in Bengaluru for several years, I have come to believe that the city's greatest achievement is not its towering IT parks, glittering skyline or global identity as India's Silicon Valley. Its true strength lies in the extraordinary way in which people from different cultures, languages, religions and traditions live together with a sense of harmony.

Everyday life in Bengaluru reflects this spirit beautifully. A simple morning walk through a park, market or residential area reveals the city's multicultural rhythm. Kannada naturally mixes with Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, and a few other languages. Tea stalls, apartment complexes, office cafeterias and local markets become meeting points for people from every corner of India. Despite its rapid pace and growing population, Bengaluru somehow continues to retain a warmth that makes newcomers feel accepted.

What also makes the city unique is that it belongs to everyone while still preserving its local identity. Bengaluru has always welcomed people from diverse backgrounds. Long before the IT revolution transformed it into a global technology hub, the city attracted students, scientists, defence personnel, entrepreneurs and workers from across the country. Over the decades, people arrived here seeking education, employment and opportunity, and in the process they became part of Bengaluru's evolving social fabric.

Food perhaps offers the most visible expression of this diversity. In Bengaluru, a single street can serve crispy *dosas*, spicy *chaats*, Kerala meals, Punjabi curries, *biryani*, *momos* and international cuisines. Office lunch breaks often resemble miniature cultural festivals where colleagues share homemade dishes from different states with curiosity and affection. The city teaches people to appreciate cultures beyond their own.

Festivals too are celebrated collectively and with genuine enthusiasm. Deepavali, Eid, Christmas, Onam, Ugadi and Durga Puja are not confined to particular communities. Entire neighbourhoods participate in the celebrations, exchanging sweets, greetings and goodwill—shared moments create a sense of belonging that is increasingly rare in today's divided world.

As a resident, I have also seen how Bengaluru's workplaces reflect this pluralism. In startups, research centres and multinational companies, people from vastly different backgrounds work together with a common purpose. Innovation, talent and hard work often matter more than caste, religion or regional identity. This cosmopolitan culture has helped Bengaluru emerge not only as an economic powerhouse, but also as a symbol of modern India's inclusive spirit.

However, we must not take this harmony for granted. Coexistence requires responsibility and mutual respect. A city thrives only when both locals and migrants see themselves as equal stakeholders in its future.

For me, Bengaluru represents the best of India — diverse, ambitious, resilient and welcoming. In a world increasingly divided by identity and intolerance, this city offers a powerful lesson: diversity is not a weakness to fear but a strength to celebrate and preserve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The US owes India and the world an answer

I refer to '3 Indians confirmed dead in US hit on ship' (Jun 12). It is extremely unfortunate that many Indians have lost their lives in the West Asian war, and the death of three Indian seafarers in a US attack on a ship on the high seas is a grim tragedy for which the entire responsibility rests on the US, which it seems has been indiscriminately launching missiles at ships, irrespective of identity and ownership. It is a pity that nations such as India that have no stake in the war suffer fatalities. This situation deserves to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. The US President should apologise for the death of innocent Indians and, for that matter, the killing of citizens of other countries as well.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

12 years of blame game

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed a record 12 years in office. The editorial, 'Modi at 12: Growth amid anxieties' (Jun 12), rightly points out both his achievements and shortcomings. He rode to power on many promises, including job creation, bringing back black money, and reducing corruption, which remain unfulfilled. The last 12 years are solely aimed at tarnishing the image of his predecessors, one family in particular. There are strong signs of intolerance, as any criticism of the government is immediately labelled anti-national. In a democracy, the government of the day will be questioned, held to account and criticised. People in power should have the maturity to welcome both criticism and flattery alike for democracy to thrive. In short, the last 12 years fall short.

S Shashidhar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rajya Sabha membership is not important for Deve Gowda, who quit as prime minister in 1997 itself, but strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is important.

H D Revanna, JD(S) MLA

The flip side of humiliation is pride.

Gary Weiss

TO BE PRECISE

Karnataka CM throws half-eaten apple at the crowd

IN PERSPECTIVE

The burden of digital memory

Defining the scope and limits of the right to be forgotten requires greater judicial and legislative clarity

HARSHITA GUPTA AND PRATISHTHA PANDEY

Recently, the Delhi High Court declared the right to be forgotten (RTBF) as an essential aspect of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution, while granting relief to 35 petitioners. The Court's judgment is a sombre reminder that though human memory is fickle, the internet makes humans incapable of forgetting the past.

The judgment comes as the Supreme Court prepares to decide whether the RTBF is a constitutional right, particularly concerning the publication of court proceedings—a question also before the High Court. Notably, the question of RTBF can arise in varied contexts; for example, a person may claim RTBF against an online news portal that continues to feature them in a 10-year-old video in an inebriated state. This contextual nature of RTBF makes it a complex right that must balance privacy, free speech, access to information, and open justice.

While the current judicial determination in the *Laksh Vir* case only concerns RTBF regarding open justice, a conclusive judicial determination about the right must be made for a plethora of reasons. First, it is presently unclear if RTBF is automatically a constitutional right by virtue of the Puttaswamy judgment, since RTBF was not recognised as being within the fold of privacy. However, *Puttaswamy* has been cited before various courts to claim RTBF, leading to confusion on whether RTBF is a constitutional right or a statutory right.

Second, in the absence of judicial determination, even the statute, i.e., the DPDP Act, does not provide sufficient clarity. The Act, as per the application clause, does not extend to personal data disclosed under any legal obligation. This raises the question of whether litigants denounce the application of the Act since they are required to submit vital information on their matter under the Code of Civil Procedure and the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita. Furthermore, the Act, as per Section 8(7), uses the phrase 'erase', and in the case of non-consensual processing, mandates that the data be erased when the purpose of using that data is achieved.

Significant concerns emerge from this issue. The Act does not mention alternative ways of protecting personal identity, such as masking or de-indexing, which leads to the possibility of claiming full erasure as per the Act and not permitting data retention while ensuring anonymity and privacy. The other issue is that neither the DPDP Rules nor the Act specify the grounds on which RTBF can be claimed. Both treat requests for erasure as a right when an entity has retained personal data beyond the statutorily specified time limit or beyond the purpose for which it was required. The DPDP Act, therefore, does not incorporate RTBF in the conventional sense that caters to the rights to dignity, privacy, and reputation.

Constraints and missing links

Though the Supreme Court and the high courts are courts of record, there have been statutory exceptions to the publication of court proceedings, such as family disputes or sexual offences. One may question the rationale behind these exceptions and if the same can be invoked for other circumstances. This is a significant constitutional question because it affects the right to equality.

Furthermore, RTBF requests made against multinational companies, such as a social media company, require the Act's extraterritorial application; however, the DPDP Act restricts its extraterritorial application to the collection and processing of data in connection with any activity that offers goods or services to the person whose data has been collected. Consequently, in the hypothetical situation about the inebriated man mentioned here, the news entity, if it is supposedly a foreign entity, cannot be compelled to erase that data through the DPDP Act since no service or goods were offered.

This scenario presents the possibility that most RTBF requests, where commercially unrelated foreign entities display personal information, might not be liable, which is concerning in this era of the internet.

The Delhi High Court's recognition of RTBF is indeed a step forward, but to ensure this right is not misused or abused, its legislative and theoretical foundations must be comprehensively fleshed out. It is hoped that when the Supreme Court decides upon the breadth and limits of RTBF, it considers these questions. Additionally, the legislature must provide clarity through suitable amendments or explanatory notes that balance free speech, justice, privacy, and dignity.

(Harshita is an incoming LLM student at DNLU, Jabalpur; Pratishtha is an undergraduate law student at National Law University, Jodhpur)

UP 2027: BJP bets on Yogi for a hat-trick

With caste equations in flux and religious mobilisation back in focus, the state with the country's largest legislature is headed for another high-stakes political battle next year

SUMIT PANDE
DH NEWS SERVICE

How Yogi Adityanath pipped his competitors to become the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh in 2017 remains a mystery. That he has survived to emerge as the longest-serving CM of the state is a reality.

In the spring of 2027, the head of the Nath monastic order in Gorakhpur will brace himself for another contest at the hustings, seeking a third consecutive term. The recent BJP victories in West Bengal and Assam have enthused the party cadre across the country. In both states, religious polarisation shored up the BJP's numbers to a three-fourths majority.

Perhaps taking a cue, the UP chief minister too has dialled up the rhetoric.

He recently warned against offering prayers on roads and mooted "namaz in shifts". Amid a call by a section of Muslim clerics to name the cow a national animal, Yogi said those making the demand "also support cow slaughter."

The Varanasi municipality last week decided to shift more than 350 meat and poultry shops out of the city during the holy month of Sawan. The state government has ordered all higher education institutions to set up 'anti-conversion cells.' The BJP is working to darn patches in the grand Hindu marquee ahead of the high-stakes battle in the state that sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha.

There are reasons why it is doing that.

After winning every LS and assembly election since 2014, the BJP fell well short of the halfway mark in the 2024 general elections – because UP flipped quite decisively. That the reversal was inflicted just months after the consecration of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya also raised questions on whether the Mandir politics has completed its course.

The outcome was significant as it was the first time since Modi's ascension to power at the centre, the BJP in UP polled fewer votes than its nearest competitors- in this case the Samajwadi Party and Congress combine.

The INDIA bloc's 'Save Constitution' campaign galvanised a large section of Dalits and shaved off just enough backward classes from the BJP to help SP register its best performance. Its ally, the Congress, romped home in another half a dozen seats.

Akhilesh Yadav's attempts to mobilise PDA (Pichhda, Dalits, and Alpasankhyak) and revive the Mandal politics finally fructified.

The outcome raised questions on whether the BJP should seek to re-prioritise its social coalition in the state to win back non-Yadav OBCs that were drifting away. In retrospect, the infighting within the state unit and the lack of synergy between Lucknow and Delhi also contributed to the BJP's losses.

To set the house in order, the BJP decided to work from top to bottom.

The BJP national president Nitin Nabin declared Yogi Adityanath would be the face of the party for the UP 2027 assembly polls. The message was clear to the two deputy CM's, Keshav Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, that the leadership issue had been settled.

Thereafter, the long-pending state cabinet expansion was undertaken to balance the social and caste equations. Of the six ministers inducted, five belong to backward and scheduled castes.

The new state unit chief, Union minister Pankaj Choudhary, is from the Kurmi community, the numerically the second largest backward caste in UP after Yadavs. The recently concluded batch of assembly polls in four states also indicates that direct cash transfers may not be a sufficient reason for the electorate to vote back a government to power. Voters, especially the youth, are demanding jobs and not doles.

Tamil Nadu has shown that a six-month-old party can mop up more than 30% of votes in its first elections to form a government. Conventional modes of political mobilisation are being overwhelmed by fast and tacky online methods that can change the course of the elections within a fortnight.

In UP, the BJP has been running a double-engine government for the last ten years. In 2027, the duo of Modi and Yogi will again challenge the "UP ke ladke" (the boys from UP), Akhilesh and Rahul.

UTTAR PRADESH

- The next assembly elections in UP are due in **February-March 2027**
- The assembly elections in UP are going to be the most closely watched political **battle ahead of the 2029 parliamentary polls**
- The principal contest is expected to remain between the BJP and the SP, with the Congress seeking to improve its tally and the **BSP struggling to stay afloat**

BJP: Eyeing A Third Term

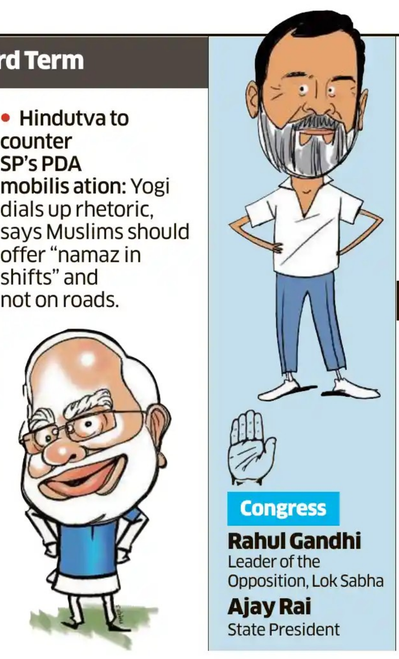
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister

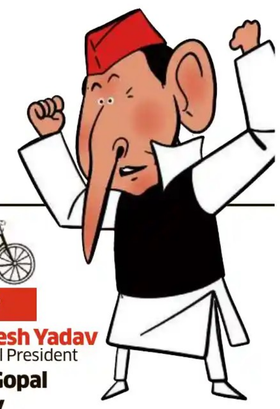
Strengths
- High Command endorses Yogi Adityanath's continued leadership
- Formidable organisational network
- Welfare delivery,
- Infrastructure projects
- Support from NDA allies across key caste groups.

Challenges
- Anti-incumbency
- Unemployment
- Inflation,
- Rural distress
- Retaining non-Yadav OBC and non-Jatav Dalit support

Strategy
- **State Cabinet expansion:** Consolidating social coalition
- Induction of backward leaders in the government
- Kurmi leader and union minister Pankaj Chaudhary as the state BJP chief
- Over 1.5 lacs jobs ahead of polls
- Hindutva to counter SP's PDA **mobilis ation:** Yogi dials up rhetoric, says Muslims should offer "namaz in shifts" and not on roads.



Congress
Rahul Gandhi
Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha
Ajay Rai
State President



SP
Akhilesh Yadav
National President
Ram Gopal Yadav
General Secretary

SP: Seeking to Reclaim Power

Strengths
- Principal opposition force
- Akhilesh Yadav's PDA formula
- Strong backing among Yadavs and Muslims

Challenges
- Expanding beyond its core base,
- Converting momentum into gains
- Managing alliance dynamics

Strategy
- Strengthening organisation,
- Early constituency outreach
- Building a broader anti-BJP social coalition

BSP
Mayawati
National President
Vishwanath Pal
State President

Assembly Elections (2012-2022) — **Total Seats: 403**

	BJP		SP		BSP		Congress	
	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %
2012	47	15%	224	29.15%	80	25.91%	28	11.63%
2017	312	39.67%	47	21.82%	19	22.23%	7	6.25%
2022	255	41.29%	111	32.06%	1	12.88%	2	2.33%

Lok Sabha Elections (2012-2022) — **Total Seats: 80**

	BJP		SP		BSP		Congress	
	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %	Seats	Vote %
2014	71	42.63%	5	22.35%	0	19.77%	2	7.53%
2019	62	49.98%	5	18.11%	10	19.43%	1	6.36%
2024	33	41.37%	37	33.59%	0	9.39%	6	9.46%

SP banks on PDA and soft Hindutva

SANJAY PANDEY
DH NEWS SERVICE

Buoyed by its success in Uttar Pradesh in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Samajwadi Party (SP), the BJP's principal rival in the state, has decided to rely on its tested 'PDA' (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) formula, along with a touch of 'soft Hindutva', to counter the saffron party in the 2027 Assembly elections.

The PDA formula helped the SP win 37 Lok Sabha seats, including Ayodhya, in 2024, reducing the BJP's tally from 64 seats in the 2019 elections to 33.

From appointing Rukmani Devi, the sister of slain 'bandit queen'-turned-politician Phoolan Devi, as the chief of the party's women's wing to condemning the police 'encounter' killing of Kamlesh Bind, an accused in the murder of a Ghazipur businessman, SP president Akhilesh Yadav has made it clear that the party will continue with the PDA experiment in the next Assembly polls while also incorporating elements of soft Hindutva.

Rukmani Devi belongs to the electorally influential Nishad community, as did Kamlesh Bind. The community has a significant presence in around 80 Assembly constituencies across Uttar Pradesh. The Nishads, also known as Mallahs (boatmen and fishermen), account for roughly 4% of the state's electorate and are an important voting bloc in eastern UP districts, including Mirzapur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Mau, Bhadohi and Prayagraj.

Akhilesh's vocal support for Swami Avimukteshwarananda, the Shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, after he was prevented from proceeding towards the Ganga for a sacred dip during the 'Magh Mela' at Prayagraj, and his taking up the issue of alleged 'missing donation money' at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, was being perceived as an attempt to 'blunt' the BJP's 'pro-Sanatan' posturing and prevent its attempt to paint the SP as 'anti-Hindu'.

In fact, the SP's sustained attack on the Yogi Adityanath government over alleged 'mistreatment' of Avimukteshwarananda forced the BJP to launch a damage-control exercise and UP deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak, in an attempt to douse anger within the 'Brahmin' community, performed puja of 'Batuk Brahmins' (celibate Hindu children, who take initiation in a Gurukul for Vedic education), all disciples of the Swami.

Akhilesh's wife and party parliamentarian Dimple Yadav recently visited the Shankaracharya's camp in Mainpuri during his 'padyatra' and sought his blessings.

The SP president had also raised the issue of the alleged 'destruction' of the statue of Ahilya Bai Holkar during the beautification of Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi, putting the BJP in an uncomfortable situation.

"Akhilesh wants to challenge the BJP on its core issue of 'Hindutva', shed his pro-Muslim image and prevent the polarisation of voters along religious lines in the next polls," Lucknow-based political analyst J P Shukla said.

The SP chief has also instructed his party leaders to avoid making controversial statements on religious issues.

The SP, however, faces challenges on several fronts. Its immediate challenge is to strike an alliance with the Congress and resolve the seat-sharing issue. There are indications that Akhilesh is not in the mood to concede the Congress's demand for 125 seats.

"The basis of seat sharing will be winning probability, not numbers," Akhilesh said recently.

The SP also has to deal with the well-oiled BJP election machinery and its aggressive 'Hindutva' agenda. Besides, the BJP has an electoral alliance with several predominantly caste-based outfits, like Nishad Party, a party that thrives on the support of the 'boatmen and fishermen' community, Apna Dal, which is a 'Kurmi' outfit, and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party, a party of the 'Rajbhar' community.

All these caste-based outfits have considerable influence on their respective communities, and denting their vote banks will not be easy for the SP.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

The toxic reality behind painting wild animals

Experts warn that using animals as literal canvases poses steep physiological, chemical, and psychological risks, writes Monica Medappa

A pink elephant in Jaipur might look like a striking, "artsy" visual online, but the biological reality behind the image is far more concerning. A photoshoot featuring an artist and a captive elephant painted entirely pink sparked a necessary debate recently about where to draw the line between creative expression and animal welfare.

While modern digital technology can create virtually any visual, outdated and physically harmful methods are still used on wildlife for the sake of viral trends. Experts warn that using animals as literal canvases poses steep physiological, chemical, and psychological risks.

IMAGE COURTESY: INSTAGRAM/JULIA.BURULEVA

The thermoregulation hazard

An elephant's skin is a specialised cooling system that lacks sweat glands, relying instead on a microscopic network of cracks and wrinkles that hold 5 to 10 times more water than smooth skin, allowing it to slowly evaporate heat.

As Dr S Ilayaraja, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services at the Agra Bear Rescue Facility, explains: "When thick synthetic paints or coatings are applied, they may block or seal these micro fissures, impairing the skin's natural ability to retain moisture and dissipate heat. In a species already vulnerable to heat stress due to its large body mass, even a minor disruption in this cooling mechanism can lead to significant physiological strain and compromised welfare."

"What appears decorative to us may, in reality, interfere with one of the elephant's most vital survival mechanisms," he warns.

Microbiome disruption

Painting an elephant's skin disrupts its delicate microbiome, causing a loss of beneficial bacteria such as Leuconostoc mesenteroides, which naturally inhibit pathogens, and triggering an overpopulation of Staphylococcus, which can lead to severe abscesses or ulcers. Treating these resulting infections is a medical minefield due to the high prevalence of multidrug-resistant bacteria in captive populations, including resistance to common antibiotics like Tetracycline, Co-trimoxazole, and Enrofloxacin.

Dr Giggin T, PhD (Veterinary Surgery & Radiology) and Assistant Professor at Kerala Agricultural University, underscores the danger of these cosmetic practices: "Anything that is not naturally applicable to skin is unscientific. Any unscientific and unnatural practices are risky in the case of chronic wounds because chronic wound management is purely based on science."

More importantly, this issue poses a critical "One Health" risk of the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria across species. "In shared environments and close contact, there is always a risk of zoonosis or reverse zoonosis," Dr Giggin notes.

Even when standard Holi colours are used, they are frequently contaminated with heavy metals such as lead, chromium, cadmium, and mercury, which pose a severe toxic risk that is further exacerbated by the elephant's unique physiology. Recent studies using MicroCT scans reveal that the dermis shrinks significantly in the troughs of skin wrinkles, creating thin "stress concentration zones" where toxic pigments easily penetrate the bloodstream and cause chronic damage to vital organs.

Regions like joint folds, trunk folds, and periocular areas are highly vascular and subject to constant micro-strain, explains Dr S Ilayaraja. "Many commonly used decorative pigments contain harmful substances. When applied repeatedly, especially over thin or fissured skin, these substances penetrate deeper layers of the skin. Even if immediate effects are not visible, repeated exposure may silently compromise long-term health," he adds.

Sensory overload, social chaos

With approximately 2,000 olfactory genes, five times more than humans, elephants possess an incredibly sensitive sense of smell that is deeply distressed by the strong chemical odours of synthetic paint. Masking these scents cripples their ability to track family members or identify reproductive status.

This severely threatens their social structure. "Natural body odours serve as a biological language within elephant societies. The application of synthetic paints, solvents, and artificial fragrances can mask natural chemical signals, disrupt communication, and interfere with social recognition among herd members," emphasises Dr S Ilayaraja.

This sensory disruption triggers a secondary physical danger. To investigate these chemical scents, elephants naturally use their highly muscular trunks to touch their surroundings and their own bodies, transferring molecules to the roof of their mouths in an investigative behaviour known as the "Flehmen response".

During interactions like commercial shoots where elephants are fed by handlers, they frequently touch their own painted skin, risking the inadvertent ingestion or internal chemical analysis of toxic pigments and solvents.

Rethinking cultural practices

While India's long-standing cultural relationship with captive elephants is understandable, evolving scientific knowledge calls for a responsible refinement of traditional practices. If decoration is deemed unavoidable for traditional reasons, experts mandate continuous skin health monitoring, pre- and post-event veterinary assessments, and a strict reliance on safe, non-toxic, and breathable alternatives.

As Dr S Ilayaraja notes, "True reverence for elephants lies not in how we decorate them, but in how responsibly we care for their health, dignity, and natural biology."

While training and awareness must be extended to handlers, the primary accountability for animal welfare lies with the brands, media houses, and production teams that hire them. Because the entertainment and fashion industries are well-versed in advanced post-production tools, there is no justification for using real paint on a live animal when the exact same visual results can be achieved flawlessly through digital rendering.

By utilising digital alteration, creative projects can eliminate all biological, chemical, and psychological risks to the animal. Moving forward, the industry must hold brands accountable to ensure no animal is turned into a literal canvas for a fleeting photograph.

(The author is a molecular biologist with a PhD from Masaryk University, Czech Republic)

DID YOU KNOW?

A shape-shifter rover for moon

Moon missions come in all shapes and sizes, from car-sized rovers packed with scientific equipment to towering rocket payloads—and now, a small, shape-shifting machine that is about the size of the average palm.

When the Japanese Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon (SLIM) touched down on the lunar surface in 2024, a small rover called LEV-2 (nicknamed SORA-Q) rolled out and explored autonomously for nearly two hours. And now, with the publication of a paper in the journal Science Robotics, we are discovering just how this tiny machine navigated the terrain, made its own decisions and what it found. The advantages of tiny rovers for space exploration include relatively low development costs, lightweight design and the ability to fit into a crowded spacecraft. But building tiny comes with many challenges.

Microrobots often struggle to move through powdery soil, such as that on the moon, because their wheels get easily trapped. They must also be smart enough to make their own decisions, but miniature batteries and processors give them little computational power. As with any space mission, there are always strict size and weight limits.

To overcome size constraints, JAXA, the Japanese space agency, teamed up with toy manufacturer TOMY. They designed a shape-shifting rover inspired by ball toys that transform into wheeled vehicles. This meant it could travel to the moon as a compact sphere and then unfurl itself after touchdown.

Once open, its wheels rotated about an axis deliberately offset from the centre, helping the rover gain traction in loose lunar soil. These wheels were also based on a TOMY toy innovation. To save its miniature battery and processing power, instead of beaming signals all the way back to Earth, it used a buddy system that relayed its data and photos to a companion rover called LEV-1, which then transmitted the information to mission control.

And, as the team discusses in its paper, the results were impressive. "LEV-2... accomplished autonomous lunar exploration by navigating around the SLIM lander, capturing images of both the SLIM lander and its environment, and transmitting selected images... without reliance on ground-based teleoperation."

This tiny machine operated for about 108 minutes before communications were lost. But in that short time, it sent important high-resolution images of the lander and highlighted the benefits of miniature space robotics.

- Phys.org

Govt bans bulk buyers from retail petrol pumps

Directs procurement only from designated points; order effective for 90 days

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central government has imposed fresh restrictions on fuel purchases, this time prohibiting industrial, commercial, and institutional consumers from buying petrol and diesel from retail petrol pumps and directing them to procure supplies only from bulk sale points.

The directive, issued on June 11 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026, will be effective for up to 90 days and can be extended further, if required.

The move follows a sharp and abnormal rise in retail sales of petrol, and especially diesel, in several parts of the country as bulk consumers shifted to retail outlets to exploit the significant price gap between pump prices and bulk-supply rates.

SUPPLY CURBS

- The move follows a sharp and abnormal rise in retail sales of petrol, and especially diesel
- Notification stated that the curbs were necessitated due to the "current prevailing geopolitical situation
- The fuel purchased cannot be resold

In Delhi, for instance, diesel is sold at retail pumps for Rs 95.20 per litre, while bulk diesel is priced at Rs 134.50 per litre.

Oil-marketing companies (OMCs) had deliberately kept retail prices lower to shield ordinary vehicle owners and households from the impact of rising global crude prices, triggered by the West Asia crisis that began in late February.

Bulk users such as industries, telecom towers, and power generators, however, continued to be charged market-linked rates.

The government notification stated that the restrictions were necessitated by the "current prevailing geopolitical situation affecting certain regions of the world".

"It has been observed... that abnormal increases in sales of motor spirit (petrol) and high-speed diesel (diesel) through retail outlets... are driven by shifting of industrial, commercial and institutional consumers to retail outlets owing to the price difference," the order noted.

Under the new rules, institutional, industrial, and commercial buyers will have to source fuel through their own consumer pumps or authorised bulk-supply points. At retail outlets, diesel sales will now be restricted only to vehicle fuel tanks or PESO-approved containers, with a cap of 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day. The fuel purchased cannot be resold.

The government warned that continued bulk purchases from retail stations risk diverting supplies meant for ordinary citizens and could lead to localised shortages and disruption of essential services.

PIL seeks CBI probe into Ram Temple 'missing fund'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday seeking a CBI probe into the alleged embezzlement of offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The matter was likely to come up for hearing next week.

The PIL, filed by local lawyer Mohit Ashok, has sought the registration of a case in this regard and a probe by the CBI into the allegations.

It has also sought a Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit of the offerings — including cash and ornaments — by the devotees.

The petitioner said that the news of the alleged embezzlement had hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees, and hence, an impartial probe into the matter was essential.

The PIL sought to implead the Union government, CBI, CAG, and the Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in the matter.

Meanwhile, sources said that after the Prime Minister's Office, the RSS had also sought a report from the Ram Temple management on the matter.

The sources also said that a portion of the alleged embezzled amount, which was not specified, had been recovered.

Earlier, senior BJP leaders and seers had also demanded a probe into the matter.

Senior leaders and former MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh appeared to support the allegations of embezzlement of offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, saying that he could not speak the truth as he was scared of the consequences.

Another senior BJP leader and former MP from Ayodhya, Vinay Katiyar, also demanded an independent probe into the matter, saying the issue concerned the faith of crores of devotees.

MBBS student faces action over comedy show remarks

MUMBAI, DHNS: As stand-up comedian and content creator Pranit More's show snowballed into a major controversy over comments made by the audience on the show, Mumbai's Seth Gordhandas Sundardas Medical College and King Edward Memorial Hospital initiated action against MBBS student Sejal Pawar for her remarks on male cadavers.

Meanwhile, an FIR was registered against More, Gurgaon youth Himanshu Jangra and Sejal Pawar.

Jangra had faced backlash for saying he expected intimacy with a girl after spending Rs 370 on her biryani.

In a video statement, Sejal Pawar apologised for her comments.

The All India Medical Students' Association (AIMSA) condemned the insensitive and disrespectful portrayal of cadavers and body donors for the purpose of entertainment or comedy.

"We strongly condemn the insensitive remarks made during the Pranit More show. Providing a platform for such content is not merely an error in judgment — it is an irresponsible endorsement of unethical behaviour. We demand an immediate public apology and a commitment to maintaining higher standards in digital media and public discourse," the association said.

IRCTC to launch new website by July 15

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that a revamped and improved Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website will be rolled out by July 15, addressing widespread user frustrations with the current online ticketing platform.

The announcement came during an interaction with students at Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) in Jaipur on Thursday.

A video of the exchange, which has gone viral on social media, shows a student directly appealing to the minister: "Sir, please solve the problem of the IRCTC captcha..."

In response, Vaishnaw immediately contacted a senior official from the department and conveyed the students' demand for a new website.

Govt planning policy for West Asia CBSE students

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it is actively considering framing a policy to provide relief to private students from West Asia whose CBSE Class 12 results are yet to be declared due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Augustine George Masih and Vijay Bishnoi, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that the Union government was examining the wider issue concerning similarly placed students and would soon take a decision on framing an appropriate policy.

The submissions came during the hearing of a petition filed by Pransu Jigarkumar Patel, a private candidate from Al Jubail in Saudi Arabia, who has challenged the CBSE's failure to declare his Class 12 improvement examination results despite an assessment scheme put in place for students affected by exam cancellations in Gulf countries.

Considering the larger questions involved, the Solicitor General requested adjournment of the matter.

MISCELLANY

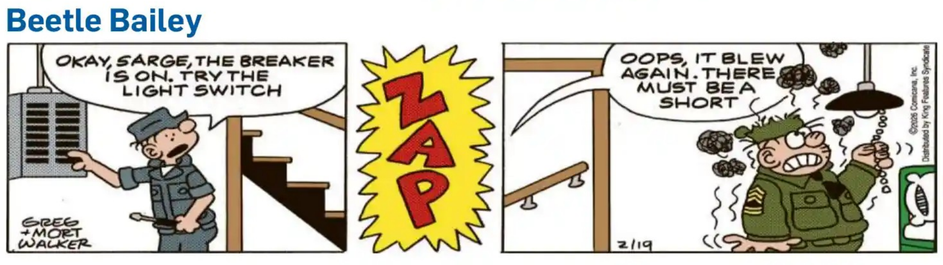
◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BOY, I ALREADY FEEL BEAT, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN GONE TO WORK YET!
I'M SORRY, HONEY
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT WOULD HELP YOU FEEL BETTER?
NOT GOING TO WORK WOULD BE A GREAT START

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

MARCIE, HELP ME PICK OUT A LIBRARY BOOK
MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT PATTY BERG.. SHE'S ONE OF MY IDOLS...
MOSES WARNED US ABOUT WORSHIPPING IDOLS, SIR...
MOSES NEVER SAW PATTY BERG HIT A SEVEN-IRON!

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUYOH

SYSAE

UGRIAT

LNHICC

It doesn't feel like I'm wearing metal! You're the best!
I've been armoring the Round Table for years.
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES, THIS TAILOR SPECIALIZED IN ARMOR FOR KNIGHTS. IT WAS HIS ---
12/2

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TROLL COUNT INFORM CRAYON
Answer: Customers arrived at the new shoe store — ON FOOT

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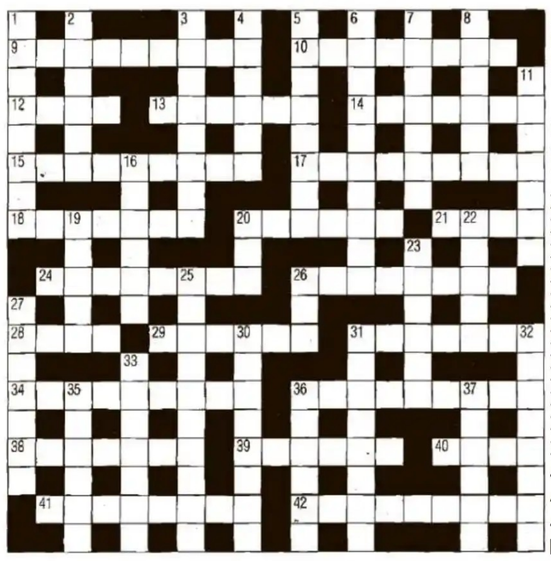
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4044

CRYPTIC



ACROSS
9 Past its best, like the balloon about to pop? (9)
10 Oh, back in gaol, having misbehaved? He's thoroughly lawless (8)
12 Hello! That means winter's here! (4)
13 Coming a day before the opening (6)
14 She'll tell you your future is entirely in your own hands (7)
15 Has to have mould - there's nothing else for it (5,4)
17 Continuing to put the clothes on the line or waiting (7,2)
18 Have the teeniest bit of broth, do (7)
20 Had I not gone off by myself punctually (2,4)
21 Is lonely only having left land (4)
24 A ribbon round the royal vessel (8)
26 Were noisy as they formed the queue (4,1,3)
28 Having courage, you say, is game (4)
29 Moved Enid out to accommodate the child (6)
31 Very like the gentleman sorting the mail inside (7)
34 Particularly doctors have to take a decrease (4,2,3)
36 Dirty work under cover of night? (4,5)
38 Believe to be a regular visitor to our shores (7)
39 In this case it's raining and everybody goes inside (6)
40 The name on the hoarding (4)
41 Encourage with a ghostly presence? (8)
42 They can turn gold into silver (4,5)

DOWN
1 Holding the ties by the top and bottom (4,4)
2 Want to reshuffle the side again (6)
3 A kindly act that deserves our applause (4,4)
4 Giving all one's attention to when camping out (6)
5 Talk about expense vouchers? (8)
6 Furious when someone's stamped on your toe? (7,3)
7 Making a home in, with the scoundrel (7)
8 Shrinking from the old crone holding the box (6)
11 Returning home mad and in a daze (7)
16 The fool with the lollipop? (6)
19 Complete, as you say (5)
20 It's not their turn either to go round (3)
22 A seat to put in the sun (5)
23 He had held the arm that was injured (6)
25 What the compilation of an instruction booklet is? (6,4)
26 Cross mother up (3)
27 Getting the garment, I seem to have turned on the central heating (7)
30 Grasp, too, that you approve of (4,4)
31 Concealed from or shown to the public (8)
32 On balance, not so unable to stay still (8)
33 Large servings of food - old stewed chops (7)
35 The satin's spoiled by the marks (6)
36 Soak the leg due to be operated on (6)
37 Is English permissible? Find out (6)

ACROSS
9 Serving as temporary means (9)
10 Deviating from norm (8)
12 Tiny amount (4)
13 Russian currency unit (6)
14 More fortunate (7)
15 Watchful (9)
17 Skilful (9)
18 Woman of great power (7)
20 Bodies of water (6)
21 Sweetheart (4)
24 Made good (8)
26 Rules for action (8)
28 Bludgeon (4)
29 Mysterious (6)
31 Tropical fruit (7)
34 Artificial lake (9)
36 Small crustacean (9)
38 Japanese art of flower arrangement (7)
39 Soak with water (6)
40 Italian wine (4)
41 Wood-preservative (8)
42 Copy exactly (9)

DOWN
1 Animal eating any type of food (8)
2 Slides smoothly over surface (6)
3 Spectacles (8)
4 Bear witness to (6)
5 Fail to have the desired effect (8)
6 Carelessness (10)
7 Invigorating (7)
8 Blue vat dye (6)
11 Curt in manner (7)
16 African antelope (6)
19 Iron (5)
20 Aged (3)
22 Consumed (5)
23 Strong-smelling plant (6)
25 Coffee-maker (10)
26 Baked food item (3)
27 Zodiac sign (7)
30 Shortened (8)
31 Early film projector (8)
32 Sample (8)
33 Originator (7)
35 Fortified wine (6)
36 Easily handled (6)
37 Depose (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12437

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Carol 6, Gangs 9, Vario-us 10, Fired 11, Italy 12, Verdi 13, Saddled 15, Sod 17, C-Leo 18, Snappy 19, Ma-Gog 20, Fr-oz.-en 22, R-ace 24, Fee 25, Wave-red 26, Minor 27, To-X-ic 28, Butts 29, Last out 30, Sta-LL 31, Never
DOWN: 2, Animal 3, Over-do 4, L-AD 5, Ti-med. 6, Guiding 7, Asti 8, Gallo-p 12, Veg-an 13, Scoff 14, Def-oe 15, Sp-e-ar 16, Dyfe-d 18, So fa-R 19, Medical 21, Report 22, Re-fu-te 23, Centre 25, Worth 26, MI-LL 28, Bun

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Trial 6, Sears 9, Deliver 10, Sport 11, Round 12, Harps 13, Recital 15, Dig 17, Edit 18, Inside 19, First 20, Credit 22, Fire 24, Hid 25, Mutates 26, Agree 27, Suave 28, Files 29, Ordinal 30, Claws 31, Tease
DOWN: 2, Rapped 3, Adroit 4, Let 5, Vital 6, Serpent 7, Eros 8, Rancid 12, Habit 13, Reach 14, Cited 15, Digit 16, Genes 18, Issue 19, Fingers 21, Ritual 22, Facile 23, Recess 25, Merit 26, Avow 28, Fat

◆ SU-DO-KU-6931 ◆

3		1	4	8			5	
				2	5		3	
							4	
4				5		9		
2			7		9			4
		9		6				7
	9							
	2		5	7				
	5			9	8	6		1

medium

SOLUTION TO 6930

6	3	9	4	1	8	5	7	2
7	1	2	9	3	5	8	6	4
5	8	4	2	7	6	1	9	3
2	7	3	5	8	9	6	4	1
9	4	5	1	6	2	3	8	7
1	6	8	3	4	7	9	2	5
8	5	7	6	2	3	4	1	9
3	2	1	8	9	4	7	5	6
4	9	6	7	5	1	2	3	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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L1 D2 E1 E1 T1 S1 E1 — Double Word Score
X8 A1 E1 R1 T1 T1 C3 — 2nd Letter Triple
D2 L1 E1 A1 I1 L1 R1
G2 M3 P3 N1 P3 U1 I1

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 175-185
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3 A1 S1 S1 A1 D2 E1 — RACK 1 = 80
R1 E1 S1 E1 L1 L1 S1 — RACK 2 = 71
P3 S1 Y4 C3 H4 O1 S1 — RACK 3 = 101
M3 A1 S1 T1 I1 F4 F4 — RACK 4 = 95
PAR SCORE 225-235 — JUDD'S TOTAL 347

HITORI-3385

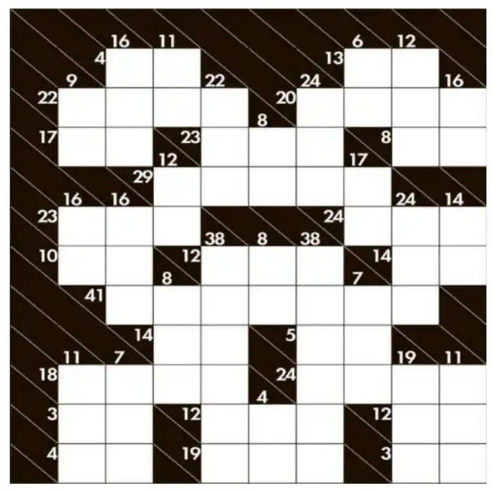
2	6	8	4	7	8	5	1
8	1	7	5	4	3	6	8
5	3	4	2	8	3	1	4
4	8	1	8	6	5	7	3
6	8	4	1	1	8	4	5
8	7	5	7	1	8	8	2
5	5	6	8	2	4	3	7
2	5	8	7	3	6	4	5

SOLUTION TO 3384

5	■	3	2	■	8	1	■
8	2	4	■	1	5	7	3
■	8	5	7	■	6	2	■
3	5	1	■	6	7	■	2
6	■	7	3	■	1	4	5
■	3	6	4	8	2	■	1
1	■	2	8	■	3	6	7
2	7	8	■	5	4	■	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

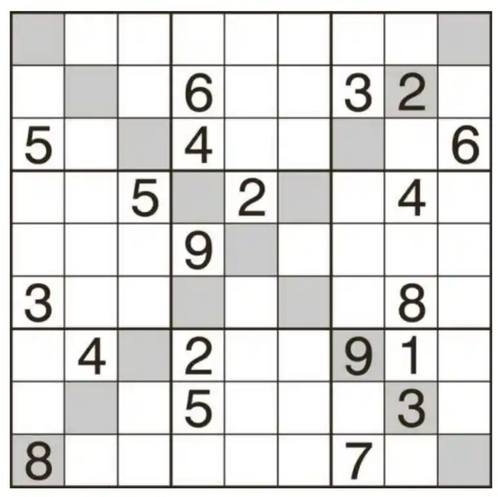
KAKURO- 3385



SOLUTION TO 3384

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3945



SOLUTION TO 3944

8	7	3	9	4	5	6	2	1
9	5	1	6	2	7	4	3	8
2	6	4	8	1	3	5	7	9
3	8	5	1	7	6	9	4	2
6	4	2	3	9	8	1	5	7
1	9	7	4	5	2	3	8	6
5	3	8	2	6	9	7	1	4
4	2	9	7	3	1	8	6	5
7	1	6	5	8	4	2	9	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DECCAN HERALD
Saturday
June 13, 2026

...k for flouting...

leader of the Parishath, said NMDC had a chance to set a positive example but failed. "The show-cause notice barely scratches the surface of the violations and the impact on life and livelihood of the people here. There is no clear estimation of what the violations have caused to the flora and fauna of Sandur's once pristine hills."

When *DH* reached out to NMDC for a response, a senior official denied that there was a delay of 22 years in the green belt development plan and wildlife conservation plan. "A clarification letter has been submitted to MoEF&CC on June 10, within the stipulated time. The wildlife plan was submitted in the year 2022 and approval from the chief wildlife warden, Karnataka is awaited. NMDC is implementing the R&R plan duly approved by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. Also, from 2016 onwards, we have taken up afforestation plans as approved by the authorities," he said.

Responding to the matter of delay in the construction of the ETP, he said a 10-kld plant has become operational since April. "There was a delay because a contractor who had got the order was unable to deliver," he said.

On the air quality monitoring stations, he said the company had followed the plan and installed three stations. "Two of them are operational. One was under maintenance which will be restored within the end of monsoon," he said, adding that the company has contributed Rs 28 crore for road construction.

Petrol at Rs 230, LPG at Rs 5,000: Manipur blockade fuels crisis

Naga-Kuki conflict leads to supply disruptions in Kangpokpi district

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIR KARMAKAR
KANGPOKPI, DHNS

"Stop, stop..." sticks in hand, Naga men and women "volunteers" halted vehicles near Kanglatombi on NH-02, which connects Imphal with Nagaland's Dimapur via Kangpokpi — a Kuki-dominated district that has become the centre of fresh conflict between Nagas and Kukis in Manipur.

"You can go, mediapersons are allowed," one of them told *DH* as he rushed towards vehicles behind.

Trucks have remained stranded along the highway since May 17, when the United Naga Council (UNC), an apex Naga body, enforced an inter-district "economic blockade", four days after 18 Nagas were abducted at Lailon Vaiphei village in Kangpokpi by Kukis.

On May 15, both communities freed 14 hostages each. But six Nagas remained untraceable, and their bodies were recovered on June 10 — a day after the Nagas released 14 Kukis.

The discovery further angered the Nagas, deepening tensions that had been simmering since February.

Trucks carrying fuel and food from Nagaland have also been stopped on NH-02 at Senapati, a Naga-dominated district bordering Kangpokpi. "Even vehicles with medicines were not allowed to enter Kangpokpi a few days ago," Janghaolun Haokip, a leader of Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), told *DH*.

Kangpokpi market remained closed on Friday following a "shutdown" called by the Committee on Tribal Unity, a Kuki organisation, to protest the "retaliatory" killing of a Kuki man by Nagas on Thursday. On the streets, many said petrol prices had touched Rs 350 a few days ago, while LPG cylinders were selling at Rs 5,000. The price of a 50-kg rice sack has jumped from Rs 1,700 to Rs 3,000.

"Petrol today is Rs 230 and diesel Rs 190. Shops are running short of stocks. If the administration does not intervene to lift the blockade, Kangpokpi will face food shortage very soon," one resident said.

"People are using firewood as there is no supply of cooking gas. Many food joints have downed shutters," he added.

Cooking with coal

Displaced Kukis from Imphal and elsewhere, sheltered since 2023 in a relief camp at L Songtun on the outskirts of Kangpokpi, were seen cooking with coal and firewood.

Haokip said life is worsening as Kangpokpi has no alternative route.

"We have met the Deputy Commissioner thrice since May 17, requesting steps to lift the blockade," he said.

A Naga leader told *DH* the blockade would have been lifted if the Kukis had released the six Nagas. "We released 14 Kukis out of humanitarian concern. But they failed. Now they don't have the right to talk about lifting the highway blockade," he said.

On Friday, the UNC submitted a "charter of demands" to Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, seeking immediate action against those involved in the killings.

A UNC leader said the blockade would continue until the culprits are arrested.

Nagas' demands

- Abrogation of the Suspension of Operations agreement with Kuki armed groups
- Immediate arrest of all members of the Kuki National Front (President) for the abduction and killing of six Nagas
- Declare KNF-P a terrorist organisation
- There is also demand for the removal of Deputy CM Nemcha Kipgen, whose husband is the chief of KNF(P)

The road leading to Manipur's Kangpokpi. DH PHOTO

Attack on ships: India summons US diplomat

Govt lodges protest for second time in 3 days

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India on Friday once again summoned the acting United States envoy in New Delhi and protested continued attacks by the American Navy on vessels carrying Indian mariners in the Gulf of Oman. This came even as US President Donald Trump blamed Iran for a "drone attack" on Indian ships exiting the Strait of Hormuz.

Jason Meeks, the Chargé d'Affaires of the US embassy in New Delhi, was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs, where senior officials conveyed India's "deep concern" over the use of "lethal and deadly force" by the American Navy against civilian shipping near the Strait of Hormuz.

"A strong protest was lodged with him regarding the continuing attacks by US naval forces on commercial vessels carrying Indian mariners in the Gulf of Oman, which have already resulted in the tragic and avoidable loss of three Indian lives," the MEA said in a press release.

Meeks was earlier summoned to the MEA headquarters on Wednesday following back-to-back US military offensive against MT Marivex and MT Settebello, both sailing under the flag of Palau, in the Gulf of Oman.

The MT Marivex had 24 seafarers on board, all of whom were rescued by the Royal Navy of Oman after the Monday attack. The attack on the MT Settebello on Wednesday led to the death of three Indians — Deck Cadet Aditya Sharma, Engine Fitter Shivanand Chaurasiya and Chief Engineer Patnala Suresh — while 21 others were rescued.

After MT Jalveer, sailing under the flag of Guinea-Bissau, came under attack from a US military aircraft on Thursday, Oman rescued 20 Indian seafarers.

The US military's Central Command (CENTCOM) justified its strikes on the vessels, stating that MT Marivex had violated the blockade by attempting to sail to a port of Iran, and MT Settebello and MT Jalveer had attempted to transport oil from Iran.

None of the three ships was owned or operated by any entity in or linked to India. They, however, had Indian seafarers.

Seafarers' bodies seek protection

The deaths of three Indian seafarers in attacks on merchant vessels by the US Navy along the Strait of Hormuz have triggered alarm across India's maritime sector, with the country's three leading seafarers' bodies demanding enhanced protection for civilian crews operating in conflict-hit waters and urgent intervention by the government and international maritime authorities.

SC dismisses Meenakshi's plea against RS nomination rejection

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a setback to Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed her writ petition challenging the rejection of her Rajya Sabha candidature from Madhya Pradesh.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar declined to entertain the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.

"We are sorry. We are not inclined to entertain this petition, and it is hereby dismissed," the bench said, while granting Meenakshi liberty to raise her challenge through an election petition under the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

The court underscored that allowing such petitions under Article 32 or 226 in cases of alleged "glaring errors" while relegating others to election petitions would amount to reading a principle into Article 329 of the Constitution that does not exist.

It cautioned against selective interference in nomination-related disputes.

Police personnel detain Congress workers as they stage a protest outside the EC office, in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Meenakshi's nomination was rejected on June 9 by the Returning Officer and Madhya Pradesh Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma.

She had approached the apex court on Wednesday seeking urgent relief.

During the hearing, senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Vivek Tankha, representing Meenakshi, argued that the Returning Officer acted arbitrarily. He contended that the rejection was based on a non-existent criminal case, as no cognisance had been taken by any court.

Singhvi pointed out that under Section 33A of the RP Act, candidates are required to disclose only those cases where cognisance has been taken. In this instance, Meenakshi had only received a pre-cognisance summons under Section 223 of the BNSS, and no cognisance was taken, he submitted.

"The Returning Officer exceeded his authority. There was no criminal case pending against her that she was mandated to disclose," Singhvi argued, describing the rejection as bizarre since the officer had incorrectly stated that cognisance had been taken.

The bench, however, was not persuaded to invoke its jurisdiction and directed that the matter be pursued through the statutory route of an election petition.

The bench said that if the court were to accept such arguments and distinguish between cases warranting interference under Articles 32/226 and those where candidates should be relegated to the remedy of an election petition, it would be reading into Article 329 a principle that does not exist.

"We are afraid any such interpretation that this court can entertain petitions in some cases involving rejection of nomination papers, while leaving others to pursue the remedy before an election tribunal, cannot be encouraged," the bench said.

Cong suspects insider role in RS fiasco

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The rejection of Congress Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination has laid bare deep fissures within the party in the state, with suspicion mounting that it was an insider job.

It has emerged that Congress leaders themselves may have leaked information to the BJP about a complaint filed against Meenakshi that the BJP then used to its advantage in Madhya Pradesh.

On June 4, Meenakshi's candidature was formally announced by the party's central leadership for a Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh. Two days later, the woman complainant said that an individual approached her near the court premises, introducing himself as the personal assistant of a senior Telangana Congress leader, and sought details about the complaint in which Meenakshi was named. BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh subsequently filed an objection to her candidature, which the Returning Officer uphled and rejected her nomination.

Interestingly, the BJP fielded its Telangana in-charge Tarun Chugh in the Madhya Pradesh contest, turning the poll into a direct clash between the Telangana in-charges of the two parties. In the end, the Congress lost on technical grounds.

"How would BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh know about a private complaint in which Meenakshi Natarajan was only a respondent, not an accused? Our understanding is that someone from our party leaked the information to local BJP leaders, both about the court case in Telangana and the fact that it had not been mentioned in her nomination papers. Ultimately, it was a huge embarrassment for the party," a Telangana Congress leader told *DH*.

2022 COMPLAINT

- Cong fears its own leaders tipped off BJP about Telangana court case
- Embarrassment for party; leaders admit paper rejection exposes fissures
- Case based on 2022 molestation complaint that named Meenakshi for inaction

Court returns complaint

Meanwhile, a local court in Hyderabad on Friday returned a complaint filed against Natarajan and several others by the 47-year-old woman on jurisdictional grounds. It noted that four of the respondents are former or current public representatives, and advised the petitioner to approach a court with appropriate jurisdiction.

Rahul: Oppn united, don't fall for propaganda

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has told I.N.D.I.A leaders not to fall into the BJP's propaganda that the Opposition does not act in sync and insisted that he can vouch even for the DMK that "everyone will be in this room" when it comes to defending the idea of India.

Rahul also told the leaders during the I.N.D.I.A meeting on June 8 that he and the Congress will "happily" accept the criticism while insisting that their role is to "unite all of you together with love and affection" but rebutted claims that JD(U) left the bloc because of the Congress.

The Congress released the audio and transcript of Rahul's 9.45-minute intervention at the meeting on Monday, which was attended by senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, and Omar Abdullah among others.

'Cong a sinking ship': Fadnavis

MUMBAI, DHNS: Amid growing discussions within Opposition ranks over a possible political realignment, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed suggestions of a Congress-led consolidation, arguing that any such merger would strengthen the BJP.

"Even if smaller Opposition parties merge with the Congress, which is a sinking ship, it will only create more political space for us," he said.

'BJP, EC partners in crime': MP unit leaders protest in Delhi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Claiming that the BJP and Election Commission (EC) were "partners in crime" in "seat chori", the Congress' Madhya Pradesh MLAs on Friday marched to the Rashtrapati Bhavan over the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nominations in the Rajya Sabha polls, but were stopped outside the party's 24, Akbar Road office.

MP Assembly Leader of the Opposition Umang Singhar, MP Congress president Jitu Patwari, and Adivasi Congress chief Vikrant Bhuria led the protest.

Meenakshi attended a press conference before the march but skipped the protest. All MLAs except Kamal Nath attended the protest.

Punjab on priority list of BJP, Congress

NEW DELHI, DHNS: After Bengal, BJP has set its sights on another border state — Punjab.

Ahead of the assembly polls, the party held a key meeting at its headquarters with leaders of the state unit, marking the first meeting after BJP named Kewal Singh Dhillon as the state president. A senior Cabinet minister said BJP plans to fight in the state on the planks of drugs and conversion.

In what leaders termed as an urgent meeting, BJP Organisation secretary BL Santhosh met with senior leaders in the state. Leaders said it was a "routine" meeting, but came as the Congress has sent a team to the state, and the Aam Aadmi Party announced that current CM Bhagwant Mann will be the party's chief ministerial face once again.

Meanwhile, the Congress has appointed two committees of senior leaders to report on the "current political scenario" in Punjab, where the state unit is faction-ridden, and to probe the "repeated indiscipline and anti-party activities" in the J&K unit.

Ajay Maken will lead the committee on Punjab, with Meenakshi Natarajan and Bhajal Lal Jatav as the two other AICC observers. Similarly, an 'Enquiry Committee' headed by Shaktisinh Gohil, will look into the reported indiscipline in J&K.

Trinamool rebels to meet Speaker on Monday to stake claim as 'real TMC'

ARKADEV GHOSHAL
KOLKATA, DHNS

The 19 Lok Sabha members of the Trinamool Congress, who have reportedly written to Speaker Om Birla to recognise them as a separate parliamentary group, are expected to meet him next week to press their claim as the "real TMC".

Mamata Banerjee

"On Monday, we will stake our claim to form the real TMC parliamentary group. We will ask the Speaker to give recognition to our claim," Coochbehar MP Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia said on Friday, hours after a letter purportedly bearing the signatures of the breakaway faction surfaced on social media.

Meanwhile, a Kolkata-based daily quoted TMC Lok Sabha chief whip Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as saying she had discussed the matter with colleagues before arriving at the decision.

Possibly the biggest surprise among the names was Ghatal MP Deepak Adhikari, better known to fans of Bengali cinema by his screen name 'Dev'.

Adhikari, who has held the seat on a TMC ticket since 2014, was considered close to party chief Mamata Banerjee. As recently as June 9, he insisted he was not among the TMC's rebel MPs in the Lok Sabha.

TMC MP Kirti Azad claimed "Operation Lotus" was behind the TMC rebellion. "They are putting pressure by taking away my security and home guards... I am not going to succumb to their nasty tactics," he said in a post on X.

The cricketer-turned-politician sought to put up a brave face, saying the TMC was standing because of Mamata Banerjee, and that party leaders claiming they had won on their own were mistaken.

Poll speech: FIR against Mamata

KOLKATA, PTI: An FIR has been registered against former West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee for allegedly making provocative remarks during the last Assembly poll campaign, a senior officer said on Friday.

A person lodged a complaint at the Netaji Nagar Police Station, alleging that Banerjee's comments at a party programme at the Metro Channel in Kolkata's Esplanade area on March 9 were "capable of promoting enmity between communities", he said.

Meanwhile, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee got a notice from CID on Friday over a campaign speech. He has been asked to appear before investigators on June 16.

ALARMING FIGURES

Indian roads turning fatal for bikers

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Indian roads are unsafe, especially for bikers, and the rising incidents of fatal and near-fatal accidents are testimony to it. Now, a new government report shows that 20 people die in accidents every hour.

The report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows that on average, 56 road accidents occur every hour in the country, resulting in the deaths of 20 persons every hour. This translates to about one death every three minutes on Indian roads.

The number of road accidents in India went up by 1.48% to over 4.87 lakh in 2024.

Among vehicle categories involved in road accidents, two-wheelers accounted for the highest share of total fatalities during 2024, followed by light vehicles — cars, taxis, vans, and other light motor vehicles — and trucks/lorries.

In terms of road-user categories, the share of two-wheeler riders in total fatalities was the highest at 46.2%, followed by pedestrians at 20.6% and those using cars, taxis, vans and LMVs at 12.4%.

A total number of 4,87,707 road accidents have been reported by police departments of states and UTs in the country during 2024, claiming 1,77,175 lives and causing injuries to 4,71,441 people," the report titled 'Road accidents in India 2024' said.

Amongst states, the report said Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of accidents at 67,526, whereas Uttar Pradesh (24,118) reported the highest number of accident fatalities during 2024.

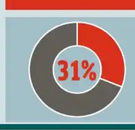
In 2024, a total of 1,50,958 (31%) accidents took place on national highways, including motorways; 103,538 (21.2%) on state highways (SH); and the rest 2,33,211 (47.8%) on other roads. According to the report, 64,772 (36.6%) fatalities were reported on national highways, 39,277 (22.2%) on SHs and 73,126 (41.3%) on other roads.

Crash count

Two-wheelers accounted for the highest share in total fatalities during 2024

67,526 Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of accidents

24,118 Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of accident fatalities



In 2024, **a total of 1,50,958 (31%)** accidents took place on the National Highways

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EU envoys greenlight first phase of membership talks for Ukraine

Approval follows breakthrough between Hungary and Ukraine

BRUSSELS, REUTERS

Ambassadors from the European Union's 27 countries agreed on Friday to advance membership talks with Ukraine and Moldova, with the first phase of negotiations set to begin on Monday.

Even as Ukraine continues to fight Russia's invasion, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has made EU membership a key strategic goal to anchor his country in Europe's political mainstream.

EU leaders agreed to open accession talks with Ukraine and Moldova in December 2023, but negotiations could not begin in earnest due to opposition from the previous Hungarian government to Kyiv's membership bid.

However, a new government in Budapest reached an agreement with Kyiv this month on the rights of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine, paving the way for Hungary to lift its block on the first phase of membership talks.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin with service members of the Russian armed forces involved in the country's military campaign in Ukraine at the Kremlin in Moscow on Friday. REUTERS

At a meeting in Brussels on Friday, the ambassadors agreed that both Ukraine and Moldova can begin talks on the first "cluster" of policy areas under which they must reform their laws to meet EU standards.

In the accession process, candidate countries negotiate policy "chapters", which are grouped into six thematic clusters covering areas including fundamental rights, the internal market and external relations.

"Today, the European Union took a major step forward," European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a joint statement. "At the first Intergovernmental Conference on Monday, we will open the cluster on fundamentals, the backbone of the accession process," they said.

EU accession negotiations are often lengthy and involve years of work implementing reforms and meeting European standards.

Costa and von der Leyen said Friday's decision was "a recognition of the determination, courage and hard work shown by both countries in advancing reforms, even in the face of immense challenges. And a signal that the EU's offer of peace, stability and opportunity is unmatched".

This version preserves all facts and Reuters attribution while improving grammar, punctuation and readability.

Putin: 'Drone strikes to divide us'

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Ukraine's increasing drone strikes on Russia aimed to "sow confusion" and damage the country's economy, AFP reports from Moscow. "Their goal is to create a split in Russian society, sow confusion and inflict economic damage," Putin told Russian soldiers at a Kremlin meeting.

"But they will not succeed," he added.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A student kicks a police barricade during a protest against the government's "anti-people" policies in Jakarta on Friday. REUTERS

Indonesian students protest rising costs, govt policies

JAKARTA, AP/PTI: Hundreds of Indonesian students rallied on Friday in the capital, Jakarta, demanding lower fuel and food prices and urging President Prabowo Subianto to roll back costly state spending programmes as economic pressures mount.

About 1,500 protesters attempted to march to the Hotel Indonesia traffic circle, a key city landmark, after Friday prayers. Authorities stopped many of them and blocked streets leading to the presidential palace, where many protests often end. More than 6,000 police officers and soldiers were deployed in the area. Many protesters, wearing yellow university jackets, voiced frustration over rising living costs, which they said had increased due to higher fuel prices following the United States war against Iran. Indonesia's rupiah has also come under pressure, reaching a historic low of 18,000 rupiah against the US dollar earlier this month. Protesters outlined five key demands, including cuts to what they described as wasteful state spending, lower prices for fuel and staple goods, and a halt to major government programmes such as a free nutritious meals initiative and a plan to revitalise rural areas.

US scholar arrested in China

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: An American scholar who writes about Myanmar and Chinese foreign policy has been arrested by Chinese authorities on suspicion of spying.

The scholar, Min Zin, is suspected of "engaging in espionage activities that endanger China's national security", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said. It is uncommon for Beijing to arrest a United States citizen on national security allegations, and the case comes just a month after United States President Donald Trump met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing as the two countries seek to reset a turbulent relationship.

German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius greets a soldier wearing a replica of a robot at the International Aerospace Exhibition in Schoenefeld on Friday. AFP

Artist David Hockney dies at 88

LONDON, AP/PTI: Artist David Hockney, whose paintings of pools shimmering in the Los Angeles sunshine became icons of 20th-century art, died on Thursday at the age of 88.

Hockney was born in England but lived much of his life in California, making its sun-drenched suburban landscapes a major motif in his work. Later in life, he returned to Europe, finding renewed inspiration in the wooded hills of his native Yorkshire and the fields and trees of France's Normandy region. He became one of the UK's most celebrated artists, with his works selling for record prices. His paintings were equally distinctive, often depicting a dreamlike world of patterned light reflecting off water and windows, with human figures rendered in flattened, simplified forms using matte acrylic paint.

Yoon gets 30-year jail term

SEOUL, AP/PTI: South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol and his former defence minister were sentenced to 30 years in prison on Friday in a case alleging that Yoon ordered drone flights over Pyongyang in 2024 to heighten tensions with North Korea and justify martial law.

The full version of the Seoul Central District Court's ruling was not immediately available. The same court had earlier sentenced Yoon to life imprisonment for a rebellion conviction linked to his short-lived imposition of martial law in December 2024. North Korea accused Seoul of flying drones over Pyongyang to drop propaganda leaflets on three occasions in October 2024.

Singer Taylor Swift and songwriter Jimmy Jam attend the 55th Songwriters Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Gala in New York City on Thursday. REUTERS

Starmer refuses to quit after defence secy's departure

LONDON, AP/PTI: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed Friday that he will fight to stay in office after the sudden resignation of his trusted defence minister left his shaky leadership weakened still further.

Starmer has seen the departure of several junior and senior ministers in recent weeks, as Labour Party lawmakers revolt and rivals plot, in despair at the government's relentless unpopularity.

But the sudden resignation of Defence Secretary John Healey is a heavy blow. Healey quit Thursday, warning that the government is not spending enough on the military to keep Britain safe "at this time of rising threats." His departure hits Starmer in the one place the often embattled prime minister has won consistent praise: the world stage.

Since taking office after a landslide election victory in July 2024, Starmer has bolstered support for Ukraine, working with French President Emmanuel Macron on a multinational "coalition of the willing" to help guarantee the country's security if a ceasefire is reached. France and the UK also have put together a maritime security force that would help keep the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping if the Iran war ends.

Starmer has also argued strongly that Europeans must do more to fund their own defence in response to President Donald Trump's criticism of Nato allies. "Starmer has been consistently staunch about warning of the security risk from Russia," said Olivia O'Sullivan, head of the UK in the World programme at the Chatham House think tank.

Pakistan hikes its defence spending by 17.6%

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan on Friday hiked its defence spending by 17.6 per cent to PKRs 3,000 billion, marking a significant increase from last year.

Last year, the government allocated PKRs 2,550 billion for defence, which was 20 per cent higher than the previous year.

"The government has made a significant increase in the defence budget," Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said while presenting the budget for 2026-27 before the National Assembly.

Aurangzeb said that the total federal budget is estimated at PKRs 18,771 billion and the "GDP growth target is 4 per cent". Among the key expenses, the federal government will spend PKRs 8,054 billion on debt servicing and interest payments. Another PKRs 1,169 billion has been allocated for pension expenditure and PKRs 1,091 billion for subsidies.

The size of the federal government's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has been set at PKRs 1,000 billion for the next fiscal year.

Among the revenue sources, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has set a tax collection target of PKRs 15,264 billion, while the government expects to generate PKRs 5,336 billion in non-tax revenue. The privatisation proceeds during the next financial year are expected to be PKRs 4.012 billion.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the government has set an export target of USD 32.8 billion and an import target of USD 70 billion. No new development schemes were announced in the budget.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a federal cabinet meeting at the Parliament House and formally approved the budget.

The premier said it was his government's third budget during the current tenure and promised "measures for tax relief and economic progress".

KEY EXPENSES

- Pakistan raises defence budget by 17.6% to PKRs 3,000 billion in its 2026-27 federal budget
- Federal budget set at PKRs 18,771 billion, with a GDP growth target of 4% and major spending earmarked for debt servicing, pensions and subsidies.

India rebuts Europe on Russia, arms sales

Europe sold weapons used against India: Jaishankar

HELSINKI, PTI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hit back at European criticism of India's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, saying Europe sells weapons that are used against India, while New Delhi has never done anything to endanger the continent.

Speaking at the Kultaranta Talks in Finland on Thursday, Jaishankar defended India's purchase of Russian crude oil after the outbreak of the Ukraine war and rejected suggestions that New Delhi has adopted a "morally ambiguous" position on the conflict.

"No European country has been attacked with Indian weapons. I wish I could say that for European weapons vis-à-vis India. So keep that in mind," Jaishankar said when asked about criticism in Europe over India's ties with Russia and continued imports of Russian oil.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Kultaranta Talks in Naantali, Finland, on Friday. REUTERS

"Europeans sell weapons which are used to attack India. Not now. For many, many years," he said, in an apparent reference to the long-standing supply of arms and military equipment by several European countries to Pakistan.

"We Indians have never done anything to endanger Europe," Jaishankar added.

The minister said India's energy purchases were guided by economic considerations and the realities of the global market. India buys oil based on cost and availability, he said.

Appeals court allows US to keep collecting 10% tariffs

WASHINGTON (US), AP/PTI

The United States government can continue collecting the 10% worldwide tariff it imposed in February while legal challenges to the levies continue to work their way through the courts, a federal court ruled on Thursday.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington handed a procedural win to the Trump administration, concluding that its case was "likely to succeed on the merits".

At issue are temporary 10% worldwide tariffs that President Donald Trump imposed after the Supreme Court in February struck down even broader double-digit tariffs the president had imposed last year on almost every country. The new tariffs, invoked under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, are set to expire on July 24.

Section 122, which had never been used to justify import taxes before, allows the president to impose worldwide tariffs of up to 15% for 150 days, after which congressional approval is needed to extend them.

Section 122 is aimed at what it calls "fundamental international payments problems". In dispute is whether that wording covers trade deficits — the gap between what the US sells to other countries and what it buys from them — as the Trump administration contends.

A split three-judge panel of the specialised Court of International Trade in New York last month found the 10% global tariffs to be illegal after small businesses sued to stop them. The trade court ruled 2-1 that Trump had overstepped the tariff authority that Congress had delegated to the president under the law.

The tariffs are "invalid" and "unauthorised by law", the majority wrote.

The case could be headed to the Supreme Court.

EU migration overhaul takes effect amid doubts over implementation

BRUSSELS, REUTERS

An overhaul of immigration and asylum policy entered into force across the European Union on Friday after a decade in the making, as EU countries face growing pressure from far-right nationalist parties.

The EU-wide agreement introduces stricter border controls, faster case processing, expanded digital tools to track asylum applications and increased deportations.

It was adopted in 2024 with a two-year implementation period. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the pact as "fair and firm" and said it would deliver "more secure external borders, solidarity between member states and more efficient procedures for asylum and return". It is the EU's primary collective response to demands for change that have grown since 2015, when more than a million people arrived in Europe seeking asylum, mostly Syrians fleeing civil war and travelling across the continent on foot.

However, levels of readiness vary across the EU's 27 member states, casting doubt on how quickly the overhaul will take effect and how effective it will be.

"We have to realise that nearly no member state is ready 100 per cent. And that's even more disappointing because it's not that we started at zero," said Birgit Sippel, a centre-left German EU lawmaker.

Member states are still struggling to implement the complex new rules, even as a tougher stance on migration is expected to feature prominently in election campaigns in France, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain next year.

"The political centre of gravity has already shifted significantly rightward over the past decade," said Roberto Forin of the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), a research organisation that collects data along migration routes.

Cou… plans …

CLP meeting … Bidadi reso…

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress is planning to move its lawmakers to a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru ahead of the June 18 Legislative Council election where there are eight candidates against seven vacancies.

A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is scheduled on June 16 at the Wonderla resort in Bidadi, Bengaluru South district that Chief Minister D K Shivakumar represents.

The Congress has asked all its MLAs, including independent lawmakers supporting the …

Elected u… this cou…

Congress president and Rajya Sabha candidate from Karnataka, Mallikarjun Kharge, receives the election certificate from the returning officer at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI PHOTO

NCLT declare…

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Bengaluru, has declared Naseer Ahmed, Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council from the Congress, as "bankrupt" under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The bench passed this order against Naseer for failing to repay Rs 1,454 crore outstanding loan amount of his erstwhile company Scotts Garments Limited, Bengaluru, which is liquidated. The declaration leads to his disqualification as MLC under both section 140 of the IBC and Article 191 (1) c of the constitution.

The NCLT has also declared Naseer's wife Nuzhat Aisha Naseer, and son Awaiz Ahmed as "bankrupt". Nuzhat and Awaiz were erstwhile directors of the company as well as personal guarantors for the loan. The …

TN CM Vijay …

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder C Joseph Vijay offered special prayers at the Sri Mookambika Temple in Kollur on Friday and presented a silver sword to Goddess Mookambika during his visit.

Vijay arrived at the temple around 3.30 pm amid tight security and was accorded a traditional Poornakumbha Swagatha by temple authorities.

Vijay participated in the Mahapuja, offered prayers at the Stambha Ganapathi shrine, witnessed the Deeparadhane and spent nearly 30 minutes in the temple.

Temple authorities also showed him the golden sword donated by former Tamil Nadu chief minister and actor-politician M G Ramachandran (MGR), about which Vijay reportedly enquired with keen interest.

The visit triggered a massive turnout of admirers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Hundreds of supporters gathered in and around Kollur despite intermittent rain, while

Elon Musk becomes world's first trillionaire as SpaceX shares debut

Blockbuster IPO raises more than $75 billion

NEW YORK, AFP

Shares in Elon Musk's SpaceX jumped 20% on their first day of trading on Friday after the biggest IPO in history, making the entrepreneur the world's first trillionaire as he vowed to take humanity to Mars.

The blockbuster operation, which raised more than $75 billion, is expected to kick off a series of major IPOs by AI companies in the coming months.

The debut on the Nasdaq exchange in New York capped weeks of investor frenzy over the rocket company turned AI and satellite conglomerate. "SpaceX wants to be able to take you to the moon, take you to Mars, and ultimately beyond," Musk said at a launch event in Starbase, Texas, surrounded by staff.

"I'm confident at this point that with the incredible team that we have here at SpaceX, that we will do that for you," Musk added.

About 100 people assembled outside the Nasdaq exchange's home in New York, where SpaceX also marked the occasion with a neon sign in Times Square reading "Building the infrastructure to the future".

A live feed shows SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on the day of the company's initial public offering (IPO) at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York City on Friday. REUTERS

Musk "sets very futuristic goals that no one else is doing, and I think that has got a lot of people excited", said Sarin Sio, of financial company Dovetail, who had come to the Nasdaq headquarters.

The company priced more than 555 million shares at $135 each in a filing with the US markets regulator on Thursday, valuing SpaceX at just under $1.8 trillion.

Friday's gain lifted its market value to around $2 trillion, placing it among the 10 most valuable US companies—ahead of Tesla, Meta and Walmart.

Options for nearly 83 million additional shares could push the total raised above $86 billion.

Co-founded by Musk in 2002, the rocket startup has since expanded into a major satellite operator and has also folded in Musk's artificial intelligence company—xAI—which includes the social media platform X.

Trading under the ticker symbol "SPCX", the conglomerate is being closely watched for how Wall Street absorbs the offering.

SpaceX is the first out of the gates among leading AI giants eyeing public markets, with OpenAI and Anthropic both recently filing initial documents with regulators.

The IPO comes just over a year after Musk left US President Donald Trump's administration, following a months-long stint leading the highly contentious "DOGE" effort to slash government spending, while simultaneously juggling his CEO roles at Tesla and SpaceX.

The record IPO is a testament to Musk's continued support among investors, with *Bloomberg* reporting that the offering was more than four times oversubscribed.

Demand among retail investors, for whom 20% of shares were reserved, was also reported to be high.

The IPO is expected to mint thousands of new millionaires and several billionaires, with former and current employees -- and a long list of investors -- from the company's near quarter-century history looking to cash in.

The company's financials are giving some on Wall Street pause, as the valuation largely depends on Musk delivering on promises worthy of science fiction, including putting data centres in space and humans on Mars using as-yet unproven technology.

Plan to revive HMT in final stages: HDK

BENGALURU, DHNS: A plan to rejuvenate defunct PSU Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) is in final stages and the Centre will soon undertake discussions with the concerned stakeholders and ministries to expedite the revival, said Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy.

Addressing the 65th Foundation Day celebrations of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) on Friday, the minister said the government is committed to rejuvenate the iconic public sector enterprise. "The detailed project report (DPR) is in its final stages. The government has ben working over the past two years to formulate a comprehensive revival strategy for HMT", Kumaraswamy said.

He said a high-level committee chaired by Dr VK Saraswat, former member of NITI Aayog was constituted to examine the matter. Based on the committee's extensive and valuable recommendations, a structured roadmap has been prepared to restore HMT to its rightful position as a leading industrial enterprise, he said.

Union minister H D Kumaraswamy (right) inaugurates Advanced Engineering Testing Facility Centre at CMTI in Bengaluru on Friday.

Further, he added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended full support and guidance to revive HMT.

On the occasion, the minister dedicated the Advanced Engineering Testing Facility Centre at CMTI to the nation.

Biz Bytes

Meesho buys Kirana Club for over Rs 202 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: E-commerce platform Meesho on Friday announced the acquisition of Kirana Club, a community-led B2B commerce platform, for over Rs 202 crore.

The acquisition provides significant deeper access to not only the $650-billion grocery market of which Kirana and general trade channels accounts for 90%, but also a platform for B2B play across categories, Meesho said.

Founded in 2020 by Anshul Gupta and Aishwarya Jain, Kirana Club has built the largest digital communities of kirana owners, with over 4.1 million registered retailers.

Kirana Club founders Aishwarya Jain and Anshul Gupta

Rupee surges 67 paise against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee surged 67 paise to close at 95.18 against the greenback on Friday as global oil prices fell sharply after US President Donald Trump indicated an imminent deal with Iran.

A firm trend in domestic equity markets and a weaker American currency also supported the rupee, forex traders said. Following Trump's remarks, Brent crude fell 4.25% to $86.54 per barrel.The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.65, down 0.20%.

Retail inflation rises to 3.93% in May on higher food, fuel prices

Price rise sharper in Southern states

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's retail inflation rose to 3.93% in May, driven by a jump in food and fuel prices amid the West Asia crisis, as per official data on Friday.

The Consumer Price Index-based (CPI) retail inflation in May was the highest in 15 months. In April, it stood at 3.48%.

The inflationary pressure was primarily driven by higher fuel and food prices.

Food inflation rose to 4.8% in May, from 4.2% in the previous month, driven by a jump in prices of vegetables, eggs, and dairy products. Tomato prices were 48.43% higher in May, when compared with the same month last year.

SBI Research said in a note that the higher inflation in May largely reflected the pass-through of higher fuel prices and supply-side disruptions.

The impact of increased petrol and diesel prices was clearly visible, with transport inflation rising by 176 bps to 1.8% in May, while a slight LPG shortage pushed restaurants and accommodation services inflation up by 154 bps to 5.7%, from 4.2% in April. Inflation in the personal care division also increased by almost 80 bps, driven by rise in gold and silver prices.

Core retail inflation (excluding food and fuel) also increased slightly to 3.84% in May.

The rise in headline inflation was more pronounced in rural India. Rural CPI inflation stood at 4.25% in May, compared with 3.53% in urban areas. Rural areas saw higher food inflation at 4.85%, compared with 4.66% in urban areas.

"Rising input costs for producers — reflected in the Wholesale Price Index inflation of 8.3% in April — are now increasingly feeding into consumer prices. The impact of the conflict, which has now entered its fourth month, is therefore starting to percolate household budgets," said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil.

From a regional perspective, the South continues to reflect the highest inflation.

Inflation in Telangana continues to be the highest among all states since January. It rose to 6.15% in May, which is likely due to higher taxes on fuel, rise in rural wages and reliance on imported fresh produce.

Major states where inflation was recorded higher than the all India average during the month under review include Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Analysts said the inflation is likely to cross the RBI's medium-term target of 4% in June.

Sensex jumps 1,695 pts, Nifty ends above 23,600

MUMBAI, PTI: BSE Sensex jumped by 1,695 points, while broader NSE Nifty closed above 23,600 on Friday, driven by a fall in crude oil prices and a global stocks rally after US President Donald Trump declared that his country has ended the war with Iran.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,695.40 points, or 2.30%, to settle at 75,527.95. During the day, it surged 1,775.47 points or 2.40%, to 75,608.02.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended sharply higher by 461.30 points, or 1.99%, to close at 23,622.90. Intra-day, the benchmark index zoomed 483.75 points, or 2%, to 23,645.35.

US President Donald Trump said that a deal to end the war with Iran is nearly complete and is expected to be signed over the weekend in Europe, as he called off military strikes on the Islamic Republic hours after threatening to take control of its oil industry.

Crude prices slump

Crude oil prices tanked nearly 4%, trading below $90 per barrel in global markets after Trump's comments.

Among 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, InterGlobe Aviation, Titan, Eternal and HDFC Bank were among the biggest winners. Tech Mahindra and Power Grid were the only laggards from the pack.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,284.61 points, or 1.73%, and the Nifty surged 256.2 points, or 1%.

Indian cos to spend $25.9 mn in AI: SAP findings

UMA KANNAN
MUMBAI, DHNS

Indian firms are planning to invest $25.9 million in artificial intelligence, with spending expected to grow by 45% over the next two years. From the present 33%, AI is expected to support 51% of business tasks over the next two years, according to the SAP Value of AI Report 2026.

Launched at the company's SAP NOW AI Tour India, the findings also reveal that agentic AI returns in India are expected to grow fivefold to $14.4 million, and overall, AI returns on investment (ROI) is projected to rise from 22% to 39% within two years.

Speaking at the SAP NOW AI Tour held in Mumbai on Friday, Manos Raptopoulos, Global President, Customer Success—Europe, APAC, Middle East & Africa, and Member of the Extended Board, SAP SE, mentioned that 85% of organisations are seeing that agentic AI is transforming business operations.

Manos Raptopoulos (R) and Manish Prasad at the SAP NOW AI Tour held in Mumbai on Friday.

India has the second largest pool of global talent in the world, and Raptopoulos said, "We have the right ingredients in order to boost the next level of innovation and growth."

Pointing out the global disruption, he said it has become the new normal and companies have to compete globally. "Technology is not becoming any simpler and it is not becoming any cheaper as well. Cybersecurity is not a new thing, but is becoming more prominent now," he said.

Raptopoulos also said that AI is the backbone of the Autonomous Enterprise.

Manish Prasad, President and Managing Director, SAP Indian Subcontinent, said, "We are getting into an era that not only defines technology in the way technology is going to get consumed, but an era where the entire business models are going to change significantly, and this is the era that we talk about from an AI standpoint."

Prasad said human talent and AI will come hand-in-hand in terms of not only improving businesses, but creating a better life for citizens on this planet.

He added that customers are moving decisively beyond experimentation, embedding AI into the core of their business and making it a strategic priority. This momentum, combined with India's strong digital foundation, deep talent pool, and vibrant innovation ecosystem, uniquely positions the country not just to adopt AI at scale, but to lead the next wave of enterprise transformation and define how AI delivers real business value globally, he added.

Flipkart hires key executives across AI, engineering, fintech

NEW DELHI, PTI: E-commerce giant Flipkart on Friday announced high-profile appointments to its technology leadership team.

Goda Ramkumar joins as Vice President, Data Science and AI Solutions, while Mohan Palisetti has been appointed Vice President, Fintech and Payments Engineering.

Nitesh Jain has joined as a distinguished architect and will drive technology strategy for Flipkart's engineering systems.

Additionally, Nitesh Jain, from Razorpay and Walmart Global Tech, has been appointed Distinguished Architect.

"As more consumers engage with digital commerce in different ways, the strength of the systems that power those experiences becomes critical," Balaji Thiagarajan, Chief Product and Technology Officer at Flipkart, said.

Singapore HC stays sentence against Byju Raveendran

BENGALURU, DHNS: The General Division of the High Court of Singapore has stayed the committal and surrender provisions of its civil contempt order against Byju Raveendran, according to a statement on Friday.

The stay, granted on June 10, following an application on Raveendran's behalf, means he is not required to surrender and no prison term takes effect for now. An appeal against the contempt finding has also been filed.

The development comes weeks after reports said a Singapore court had sentenced the Byju's founder to six months in prison in a contempt case linked to non-compliance with court directions concerning asset-related disclosures and ownership documents. The earlier order had also directed him to surrender, pay S$90,000 in costs and provide documents relating to ownership of Beeaar Investco Pte.

Byju Raveendran

The statement said reports suggesting an arrest warrant had been issued against Raveendran were incorrect. It stated that the earlier order only required his appearance on June 15 and that no arrest warrant had been issued.

According to the statement, the matter relates to a civil contempt finding linked to document disclosure and obligations in ongoing arbitration proceedings. Those underlying proceedings and related court orders are being challenged separately.

J Michael McNutt, Senior Litigation Advisor to Raveendran and the founders, said, "There is no criminal charge against Byju Raveendran in that respect. No court, in any jurisdiction, has made such a finding against him."

Commenting on the stay, Raveendran said, "I welcome the stay granted by the Singapore Court."

The PICNIC promise

Tini Sara Anien writes the tale of a family that discovers the importance of staying connected during a picnic outing

The June sun shone brightly over the green lawns of Cubbon Park in Bengaluru. Birds chirped in the trees, and a cool breeze moved over the grass.

"Perfect weather for a picnic!" said Shan, spreading a large mat near a shady tree.

Sarah smiled as she unpacked their picnic basket. "Good thing we started early before it got too hot." Their children, nine-year-old Mehwish and seven-year-old Ezra, were already running around the lawn.

"Race you to that tree!" shouted Ezra.

"You're on!" laughed Mehwish.

A few moments later, they returned, breathless and smiling. "Can we eat now?" Ezra asked hopefully. "Already?" Sarah laughed. "We've only just arrived." "But running makes me hungry!" Ezra said. Everyone chuckled. Soon, sandwiches, watermelon slices, mangoes, bananas, and bottles of lemonade were arranged neatly on the mat.

Shan's eyes immediately landed on the watermelon. "Ah, the king of fruits has arrived!"

"The king?" Mehwish giggled. "I thought mango was the king of fruits."

"Not in my kingdom," declared Shan dramatically, picking up a slice. Ezra grinned. "Papa would build a castle made of watermelon if he could."

"Not a bad idea," Shan replied.

As everyone laughed, he took a bite and sighed happily. "Watermelon is one of the best fruits for summer. It helps keep one hydrated. During these months especially, we need to drink lots of fluids and eat fruits."

"Are fruits healthy because they have water?" Ezra asked.

"That's one reason," said Shan. "Many fruits also give us vitamins, minerals, and energy. Watermelon helps cool the body. Mangoes provide vitamins. Bananas are good for the gut." Sarah nodded. "That's why I packed plenty of fruit." After eating their lunch and some fruit, they played badminton and flew a kite. The bright blue kite soared high above the trees. "Look how high it's going!" shouted Ezra."It's almost touching the clouds!" said Mehwish.

The afternoon passed happily. Eventually, everyone returned to the picnic mat for a rest. Sarah looked at her family and smiled. "You know, June 18 is International Picnic Day."

"Really?" asked Ezra.

"Yes," she said. "It's a day when people celebrate spending time outdoors with family and friends."

"We're celebrating early then," said Mehwish. "Exactly," Sarah replied. For a while, everyone sat quietly, enjoying the peaceful surroundings. Then Shan spoke. "Can I ask both of you something?" The children looked up and nodded. Shan leaned back against the tree. "When I was your age, we all lived with big families. And they spent a lot of time talking to each other. These days, everyone is busy with school, work, activities, and screens. So I just wanted to check: Is everything alright at school? Is anything bothering either of you?" The children exchanged glances.

"Nothing's wrong," said Ezra quickly.

"Are you sure?" asked Sarah gently.

Ezra hesitated. "Well..."

"What is it?" asked Shan. Ezra looked down at the grass. "Some boys at school keep making fun of me because I'm small." Sarah moved closer. "Why didn't you tell us?" He replied, "I didn't want you to worry."

Shan placed a hand on his son's shoulder.

"Ezra, we would much rather know what's bothering you than have you keep it to yourself."

"Really?" Ezra asked.

"Of course," said Sarah. "Family members help each other." Ezra nodded slowly. "I guess I should have told you."

"Always tell us," said Shan. "Problems become easier when you share them." Mehwish was quiet. Sarah noticed, and asked, "What about you, sweetheart? Anything on your mind?" Mehwish sighed. "A little."

"What is it?" asked Sarah.

"I've been nervous about the school debate competition," Mehwish replied.

"The debate?" asked Shan. "But you're excellent at speaking."

"What if I forget my points? What if people laugh? What if I mess up?" she asked.

Sarah smiled. "Those sound like very normal concerns."

"They do?" asked Mehwish.

"Absolutely," said Sarah. "Even adults get nervous."

"I still get nervous before important presentations," admitted Shan.

"You do?" asked Mehwish, looking surprised. "Every time," Shan added. "You never told us that," said Ezra, surprised. "See?" said Shan. "Even parents should talk about their worries." The children laughed. Sarah looked around the picnic area. "You know what I like most about picnics?"

"The food?" asked Ezra.

"The watermelon?" guessed Mehwish.

"Those too," Sarah said with a smile. "But mostly, I like that everyone slows down. There are no rushed schedules. No meetings. No homework. We simply spend time together." Shan nodded. "Sometimes the best thing a family can do is just sit together and talk." Ezra thought for a moment. "Like we're doing now?"

"Exactly," said Sarah. The afternoon sun began to soften as evening approached. Sarah packed the empty containers while the children folded the picnic mat. Before leaving, Ezra looked at his parents. "I'll tell you if something is bothering me next time."

"Me too," said Mehwish. Shan smiled. "And your mother and I promise to listen."

"And we'll share our worries too," added Sarah. Ezra grinned. "Even about watermelon prices increasing?"

"Especially watermelon worries," said Shan.

Everyone laughed.

As they walked toward the parking lot together, the sky glowed orange and pink above them. It had been a simple picnic with sandwiches, fruits, games, and laughter. But it had also become something more important.

It had reminded them that families grow stronger when they spend time together, listen to one another, and share both their joys and their troubles.

2 DIY cards for your dad

Father's Day is on June 21

Shirt-and-tie card

Materials needed

- Blue chart paper or cardstock
- Patterned paper
- White paper strip
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencil
- Black marker or sketch pen
- Decorative buttons or googly eyes

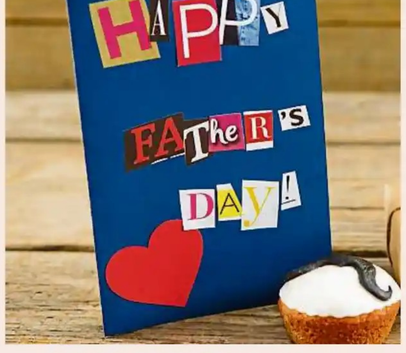
Method

1) Fold a sheet of blue cardstock in half to create the card base.
2) Draw and cut two diagonal slits near the top front of the card. Fold the flaps inward to form a shirt collar.
3) Cut a tie shape from patterned paper and glue it beneath the collar.
4) Cut a small pocket shape from blue paper and stick it on one side of the shirt.
5) Decorate the collar with buttons or other embellishments if desired.
6) Cut a strip of white paper and write 'Happy Father's Day' on it using a marker.
7) Glue the greeting strip along the bottom of the card. Open the card and write a heartfelt message for your father inside.

Magazine-cutout card

Materials needed

- Coloured cardstock or chart paper
- Old magazines, newspapers, or printed pages
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencil
- Decorative paper



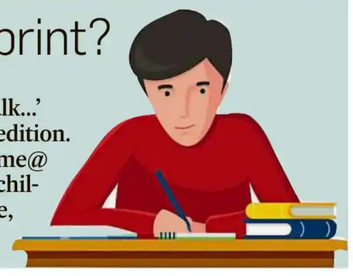
Method

1) Fold a sheet of cardstock in half to create the card base.
2) Browse through old magazines and cut out individual letters in different fonts, sizes, and colours.
3) Arrange the letters on the front of the card to spell 'Happy Father's Day!'.
4) Once you are satisfied with the layout, glue the letters in place.
5) Cut a heart shape from coloured paper and stick it near the bottom of the card.
6) Add other decorative cut-outs such as stars, ties, tools, or moustaches as desired.
7) Allow the glue to dry completely.
8) Write a personal message inside.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'If everyday objects could talk...' to Open Sesame. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work—not more than 12 lines—to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Entries close on June 25. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.



Word of the Week

perseverance

(noun)
— Continuing to work hard towards a goal despite difficulties, setbacks, or challenges.

Usage:
— Maya's perseverance helped her learn to ride a bicycle even after many falls.
— Although the puzzle seemed impossible at first, Riya solved it through a lot perseverance.

Is time travel a good idea?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

YES

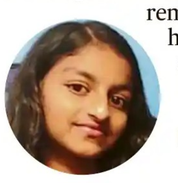
Time travel is one of the most fascinating concepts ever imagined. The ability to travel through time, particularly into the future, could bring remarkable benefits to humanity. While it remains a topic of scientific research and imagination, the possibilities it presents are truly exciting.

One of the greatest advantages of time travel would be the opportunity to gain knowledge about the future. Scientists could study future technologies, medical advancements, and solutions to global challenges such as climate change, pollution, and diseases. This knowledge could help improve life on Earth and accelerate human progress.

Time travel could also deepen our understanding of history. Instead of relying only on books and records, people could witness important historical events firsthand and learn valuable lessons from the past. This would help preserve historical truth and increase our appreciation of human achievements.

Moreover, time travel could inspire innovation and curiosity among future generations. The dream of exploring different periods of time encourages scientific thinking and pushes the limits of human imagination.

Although time travel is not yet possible, its potential benefits make it an exciting idea. If used wisely and responsibly, time travel could become a powerful tool for learning, discovery, and progress. It reminds us that the future holds endless possibilities and that human curiosity knows no boundaries.



ANANYA KUMARI, 14
Bengaluru, Karnataka

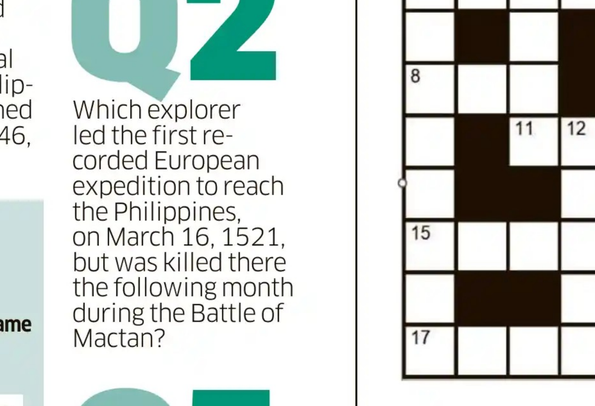
NO

Time travel is a fascinating concept dominating the science fiction genre. Naturally, a question arises: would time travel become an asset or a curse in reality?

The prospect of time travel raises ethical dilemmas regarding the restraints imposed on this revolutionary technology and the authority that enforces them. It enables individuals to manipulate events of the past and future for personal gain. For example, legal evidence could be erased from existence, thereby obstructing justice and endangering lives. The capability to command the future is perilous, and in the hands of self-seeking individuals, it will certainly lead to misuse.

Additionally, time travel downgrades the significance of the linear trajectory of time. It is likely to cause paradoxes like the Free Will Causality. Humanity learns from actions taken in the past, and altering them impairs this learning. Conversely, control over the future could drive one to act precariously.

In conclusion, time travel would not be desirable in reality. It raises moral questions and challenges the natural order of events, simultaneously making some individuals infallible while wrecking others. It disrupts the linear movement of time and risks paradoxes. Ultimately, some ideas must be restricted to fiction.



DEVIKA V C, 15
Bengaluru, Karnataka

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Donald Trump

If you could have a conversation with US president Donald Trump, what would you like to know about him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on June 18.

This Week:

Manila and more

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On June 12, 1898, the Philippines declared independence from Spain. Which colonial power ruled the Philippines thereafter, until the country gained its sovereignty through the July 4, 1946, Treaty of Manila.

Q2 Which explorer led the first recorded European expedition to reach the Philippines, on March 16, 1521, but was killed there the following month during the Battle of Mactan?

Q3 Responding to remarks by Gilberto Teodoro, Defence Secy of the Philippines, which country urged the Philippines not to allow 'a few clowns' to undermine bilateral relations?

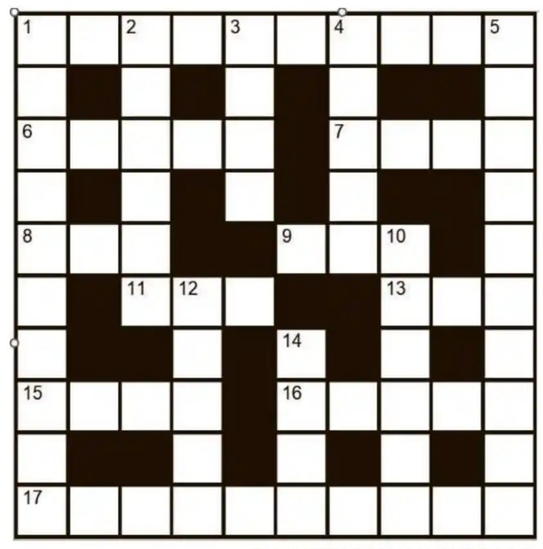
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Bohol Island is home to the Chocolate ___.
Clue B: Specialised respiratory organs for most aquatic animals.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** What was Manila International Airport officially renamed on August 17, 1987?
Use these clues.
a) Politician
b) Corazon
c) Assassination
d) Journalist

WINNER'S NAME: Aaditi (16), Bengaluru; Sampada Sastry (14), Pandavapura; Saakya H S (14), Chikkamagaluru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK: A1) President Abraham Lincoln, A2) Treaty of Versailles, A3) France, A4) Ageing/ Caging, A5) Battle of Plassey.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across

1 Agatha Christie detective (4,6)
6 Nobody (2,3)
7 Story (4)
8 Part of the face (3)
9 Extinct flightless bird (3)
11 Japanese currency unit (3)
13 Dog's foot (3)
15 Excessive warmth (4)
16 Remove knot (5)
17 Sherlock Holmes creator (5,5)

Down

1 Made from a single large stone (10)
2 Careless and untidy (6)
3 Humble (4)
4 Proportion (5)
5 In all places (10)
10 Lack of feeling (6)
12 Something additional (5)
14 Source of money (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Miss Marple, 6 No one, 7 Tale, 8 Lip, 9 Moa, 11 Yen, 13 Paw, 15 Heat, 16 Untie, 17 Conan Doyle.
Down: 1 Monolithic, 2 Sloppy, 3 Meek, 4 Ratio, 5 Everywhere, 10 Apathy, 12 Extra, 14 Fund.

Men who walk beside

elephants

The bond between gentle giants and their caretakers is as celebrated as it is criticised. DH journalist **Pavan Kumar H** visits two elephant camps in Karnataka to provide a ringside view of this complex relationship

Mahout Kiran brings his elephant Manikya back from the Dubare Reserve Forest. DH PHOTOS/PAVAN KUMAR H

Fifteen minutes after we enter the Dubare Reserve Forest, Kiran pauses and takes a deep breath. "He is near," he alerts me. Then, at the top of his voice, he starts calling out, "Math... math..." It is a command to come forward. Moments later, a loud trumpet rises from behind the tall lantana bushes. "He is alright," Kiran assures me, while warning me not to make any noise or run. He continues calling, "Math... math..."

A 9-foot-tall elephant, weighing over 4,000 kg, emerges from the thicket, crushing the lantana in its path like a ship parting storm-tossed waves. Slowed only by the chains around its front legs, it strides forward and stops barely two feet away from us. This is Manikya, a 28-year-old male elephant, looked after by Kiran, his mahout.

The elephant's breathing is so deep and heavy that I can feel the ground tremble beneath me. I stand frozen, legs shaking and sweat beading on my forehead. But Kiran remains calm. He pats Manikya's trunk, says "shaabaash" (well done), and wipes the temporal glands near his eyes. The giant elephant stands like a pet, enjoying the affection and praise. He flaps his ears, swings his trunk, and continues pulling up fresh grass from the forest floor.

Like other tamed elephants, Manikya spends most of his day foraging in the wild, where he gets nearly 90 per cent of his diet. Only in the morning and evening does he return to the camp to be bathed and fed a supplementary diet of ragi, green gram, and paddy. An adult elephant like him consumes around 200 kg of food and drinks up to 100 litres of water every day.

"How come you have travelled this far today? Didn't you find the bamboo where I left you?" Kiran asks gently. Manikya nods and swishes his tail. After a few minutes of catching up, Kiran issues two commands: "sarak" and "kule beth". Manikya turns, walks a few steps away, and lowers himself to the ground, first onto his hind legs and then onto his side. He is ready for grooming.

Kiran hands me a leafy twig and asks me to dust Manikya. For the next 25 minutes, we scrub him all over, removing mud and ticks. As we work, Kiran shares the elephant's story.

More than three years ago, the forest department captured Manikya near Hassan after declaring him a "rogue elephant" following repeated conflicts with residents. Today, the same elephant, now tamed and trained, is deployed to capture, calm, and herd wild elephants away from human settlements and back into the forest, without force or violence. This method is called kumki. "Manikya has been tagged as a junior partner in kumki operations. In the coming days, he could even lead a team," Kiran says, beaming with pride.

Blood and bond

The relationship between elephants and their caretakers has been romanticised in films as deeply emotional and intuitive. But it also remains fiercely polarising. Critics argue that the bond is built on control and cruelty, with wild animals forced into obedience to serve human needs.

I meet a total of 10 mahouts and their assistants (kavadis), first at Dubare Reserve Forest in Kodagu and later at Mathigodu on the outskirts of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. They are well aware of the divergent opinions about their work. One of them puts it bluntly: "These are wild animals. Unless we train them, they won't respond to commands. During training, we do hit and prod them with sticks. Sometimes blood drips from their limbs, but that is inevitable. They are not puppies or cats who will simply obey." But, he says, this is only one part of the story. "Once they are trained, we treat them like our own children," he continues. Other mahouts describe their elephants as gods watching over their families, or as friends with whom they spend more time than their own kin.

Compassion for elephants and an understanding of their behaviour are key qualifications for becoming a caretaker. In Karnataka, mahouts were traditionally recruited from the forest-dwelling Jenu Kuruba community. Over time, however, the profession has opened up to people from other communities as well.

Mourning Marthanda

A pall of gloom hangs over the Dubare camp. On May 18, captive elephant Kanjan extemporally attacked Marthanda, a tuskless male, while the latter was being bathed. Marthanda sustained fatal injuries, and in the melee, he collapsed onto a tourist from Chennai, who also died.

Marthanda's mahout, Naveena, is yet to come to terms with the loss. "There hasn't been a single day that I haven't gone to his grave and offered a flower. I may get another elephant, but the void he has left will remain," he says. He remembers Marthanda as a "strong and obedient" elephant who had protected him during many operations against wild elephants.

"Doctors and officials tried to save him, but he died right in front of my eyes. He suffered a lot," Naveena says, his voice trailing off. He is also overcome with guilt. "Kanjan and Marthanda were friends. They used to play together. We still don't know what happened that day — why Kanjan attacked him. I was sitting on Marthanda, and everything happened in a fraction of a second. I couldn't save him."

Still, Naveena harbours no bitterness towards Kanjan. Instead, he is saddened that the elephant has been kept in isolation since the incident. "Elephants are unpredictable. It is up to us to be extra careful and look for signs of aggression. Elephants are wild animals, and that instinct always remains in them," he says.

Since 2016, at least four mahouts in Karnataka have been killed by their elephants. At Dubare camp alone, nearly 40 per cent of mahouts and kavadis have suffered injuries from elephant attacks, some life-threatening. "Elephants are not at fault when they attack us," Naveena emphasises.

Taming days

With over 6,300 wild elephants, Karnataka is home to India's largest elephant population. The state has 10 elephant camps, including Sakrebyle (Shivamogga), Mathigodu and Balle (Nagarahole), Harangi (Kodagu), Bheemeshwari (Mandya), K Gudi (BRT Tiger Reserve), and Pansoli (Kali Tiger Reserve). These camps are located in areas with the highest levels of human-elephant conflict, allowing kumki elephants to be deployed quickly to manage such incidents. They collectively house more than 150 trained and semi-trained elephants.

Only elephants that are repeat offenders, injured, orphaned, or deemed a threat to public safety are brought to these camps. Three days before my visit, the forest department had captured a bull elephant from Hassan for being a "regular offender", with kumki elephants Bishma, Sugreeva and Harsha assisting in the operation. There is also a 12-month-old elephant here. He was rescued when he was only a day old after his mother abandoned him.

On the first day of confinement, forest department officials assign a mahout and a kavadi to the elephant, pairing them for life. The elephant is kept inside a kraal, a huge cage made from heavy logs. "These elephants get highly aggressive and try to escape constantly. They head-butt the logs, use their trunks to push them and often fall while trying to climb out. Their movement is restricted by heavy chains," says Era, one of Dubare camp's seniormost mahouts. The stress of captivity tends to worsen their existing wounds, so they are monitored daily by a veterinarian.

The mahout and kavadi remain beside the elephant at all times initially, not going home or even bathing. It is during these days that they imprint their voice and body odour on the animal. They begin by feeding the elephant with long sticks. As it gradually calms and begins responding to commands, both the length of the stick and the size of the enclosure are reduced. The elephant is allowed out of the kraal only after it learns to obey the commands. "Some elephants are brought out in 15 days, while others take 45 to 60 days," says Era. Then there is Kytha, an elephant that, even after two years, is still not fully tamed.

Once the mahout is confident of controlling the elephant, it is brought out of the kraal, still chained, and positioned between two trained elephants. This gives it the comfort of being in a herd while making escape more difficult. Training intensifies at this stage, with mahouts issuing commands such as "dhalai" to lift the trunk up, "ti re" to lie down, "so maar" to get up, and "dhar" to lift or hold an object.

There are more than 30 such commands, derived from a mix of Hindi, Urdu and Assamese. I learn 13 of them quickly, but none of the camp's 36 elephants responds when I try. The trained elephants respond only to their mahouts and kavadis.

Peacekeeping role

Kumki elephants are now seen as essential peacekeepers in wildlife management. However, not all trained elephants are chosen for kumki operations. Their suitability depends on physical strength, the courage they show during high-risk encounters, and how well they can be controlled by their mahout.

Ranjan K P, deputy range forest officer at Dubare, who has taken part in over 90 kumki operations, counts Kanjan as a remarkable kumki elephant. "He never backs down during an operation, whether facing a tiger or another elephant. That's one heck of a bull in our camp," he says.

While there is no concrete record of when Karnataka began domesticating elephants, it is well known that major dynasties, from the Kadambas, Rashtrakutas, and Kalyani Chalukyas to the Vijayanagara rulers, Tipu Sultan, and the Wadiyars of Mysuru, used elephant cavalry in warfare. These kingdoms primarily used two methods to tame elephants: khedda and kumki. The khedda method, now banned, involved driving wild herds into massive stockades or pit traps. It was fraught with danger and resulted in elephant deaths. Today, the forest department relies on the kumki method or tranquillisation for handling wild elephants.

Karnataka's expertise in training elephants is so sought after that several Indian states have turned to it for help. In 2025, Andhra Pradesh deputy chief minister and actor Pawan Kalyan personally welcomed eight elephants from Karnataka to assist with wildlife management efforts in the Palamaneru forest division in Chittoor district.

Search party

Tamed elephants do more than help mitigate conflict. They also play a pivotal role in Mysuru Dasara, Karnataka's biggest festival. It is hard to imagine the final day of the celebrations without the world-famous Aane Ambari procession, where elephants carry the Golden Howdah, which weighs over 750 kg, through the city's streets.

I spot last year's Dasara star, Abhimanyu, near a pond at the Mathigodu camp. I am not allowed to go near him as he is in musth, a periodic condition in adult bull elephants marked by a spike in reproductive hormones and heightened aggression. Jeevan and Akash, the sons of his mahout, Vasanth, are attending to him. The teenagers spend much of their day bathing and feeding him.

"I learnt the art of taming elephants from my father. And now my sons are learning from me. They want to become mahouts one day," says Vasanth, adding, "Even when they play among themselves, they pretend to be mahouts and elephants. Elephants are part of our songs and festivals. We can't survive without them."

Outside the pond, four elephants, including Dasara elephants Bheema and Dhananjaya, wait their turn for a bath. "As long as a musth elephant is in the water, no other elephant is allowed in. It could lead to an attack," explains Vasanth.

Musth elephants are difficult to handle, but Karnataka's mahouts have mastered the art. Vasanth says that during last Dasara too, Abhimanyu was in musth, but they "ensured he carried the pride of Karnataka on his back".

Jeevan and Akash bathe elephant Abhimanyu at the Mathigodu camp. They are sons of mahout Vasanth.

Newly captured elephants are kept in a kraal, a wooden enclosure, until they get used to their mahout.

Over the next three hours, I watch the elephants bathe, spray mud over themselves to cool down, undergo veterinary check-ups, and eat. Before the May 18 jumbo clash, these elephants would meet and greet visitors as part of the camp's entertainment programme before retreating into the surrounding forest patches. The programme has been suspended temporarily.

Every morning, mahouts have to find and bring back their elephants from the forest. Sometimes an elephant wanders too far, drifting away with wild herds. This once happened to Shankara's elephant, Sugreeva. When he did not return to the camp for two or three days, a search party of six had to be formed. They tracked him by following the marks left by the chain dragging from his legs.

Once a mahout spots his elephant, he calls out "Math... math". "Most times, our elephant ignores us and stays with the wild herd, thinking they are his new family. Then we climb a tree and make loud noises. If that doesn't work, we burst crackers. Our elephants are used to the sound, but the wild ones flee. Then we coax our elephant back with treats like bamboo shoots," elaborates Shankara.

Even after such escapades, Shankara cannot bring himself to scold Sugreeva. "Or he won't forget it!" he says. Instead, a "shaabaashi", a gentle pat on the trunk, and a few soft words in his ear are enough to win him over. Then Shankara removes the long chain from Sugreeva, frees his front legs, and together they begin to walk back home.

Like this story? Email: dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

A progressive metal band with a funk influence

Pineapple on Pizza has grown from a casual college band into a seven-member group that performs across Bengaluru, writes Rishabh Shankar

What began as a spontaneous college competition entry has evolved into one of Bengaluru's emerging student-led metal acts. The band, Pineapple on Pizza, was formed in November 2022, when its members were classmates in St Joseph's Pre-University College. The seven-member group has evolved into a progressive metal outfit that also experiments with funk and fusion.

The band's unusual name came together just moments before their very first performance.

"We skipped class and went to the competition just for the experience. We didn't even have a bassist at the time. Someone at the venue asked for our band name and we didn't have one. I just said Pineapple on Pizza, and it stuck," says Arnav, the backing vocalist and keyboard player.

The members are into different forms of music — metalcore, jazz and funk. Their influences range from Dream Theater, Haken and Periphery to Caligula's Horse and Slipknot. "Our music becomes a mix of all of those genres," says Arnav. That fusion, they admit, occupies a niche space in India's independent music scene. "I don't think there are many bands doing exactly what we're doing, it's a small category, but it's growing," says Orson, the lead vocalist.

So far, Pineapple on Pizza have two original tracks and are currently working on their third. Their first song, 'Take This Away', emerged during the early stages of the band's songwriting journey — in 2023. The song revolves around the idea of having one person in life who helps carry emotional pain and remains present through every hardship. Their second track, 'This Is My Fight', explores the exact opposite emotional territory. Written in 2024, the song focuses on personal struggle, independence and confronting life's battles alone.

Though the songs have not yet been officially released, the band performs them at live gigs and competitions across Bengaluru. Their setlist includes a mix of their original compositions alongside covers of Bring Me The Horizon, Inner Sanctum, Bullet For My Valentine, Linkin Park, Avenged Sevenfold, and Pineapple Express.

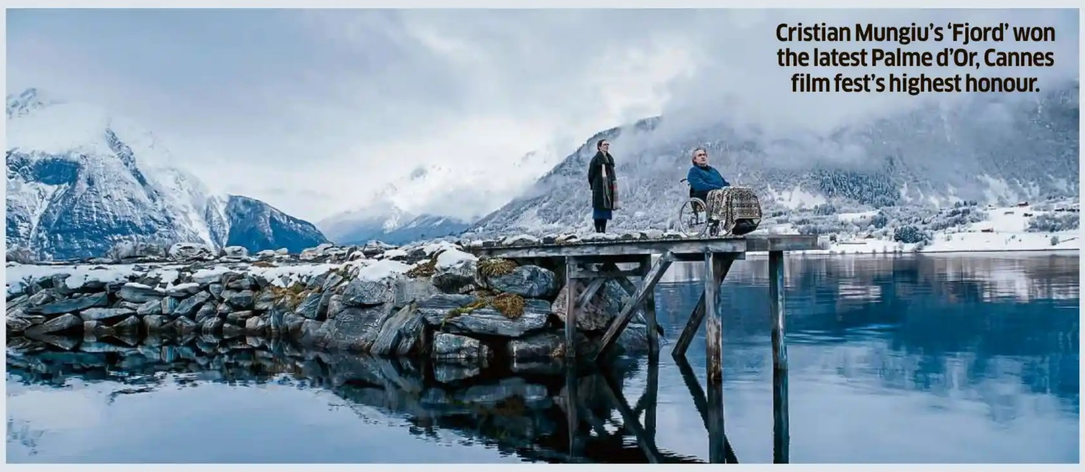
The seven-member band was formed in 2022.

Preparing for performances takes weeks of rehearsals. They practice for nearly two-and-a-half-hours every day. Members first learn their individual parts before coming together to practice.

The members describe Pineapple on Pizza as a space of friendship, growth and emotional connection. "We've been through ups and downs, and have had our fair share of arguments. At this point, it feels less like a band and more like brotherhood," shares Ashmit, the lead vocalist.

As they continue to evolve, the group remains rooted in the same spirit that brought them together in the first place: experimentation, friendship and a shared love for performing.

There was a certain aloofness at the festival, which failed to offer a comprehensive vision of a world in turmoil, writes N Vidyashankar



Cristian Mungiu's 'Fjord' won the latest Palme d'Or, Cannes film fest's highest honour.

A gaze shaped by angst

CANNES 2026

There is a familiar narrative. A middle-aged IT professional with proven technical skills relocates westward with lower pay in search of a quieter life for his wife and five children. The East and West here are not traditional Oriental and Occidental civilisations but a relatively short journey from Romania to Norway, literally and metaphorically, a move from open plains to fjords and to his wife's hamlet.

The shift is anything but merely physical. It marks a transition from a conservative, orthodox cultural ecosystem to a modern, libertine, rule-of-law-based society where individual freedom is sacrosanct and secular values are applied indiscriminately. Lurking beneath this transition is the region's recent history of competing political ideologies.

Yet the family's existential challenges are far more complex than contemporary debates around identity politics and authoritarianism, migration and cultural shock, religion and secular law, conservatism and liberalism, or violence committed in the name of faith. All these themes intersect in 'Fjord', the Palme d'Or-winning film at the 79th Cannes International Film Festival by acclaimed Romanian director Cristian Mungiu.

That such a deeply personal film won the festival's top prize is indicative of the nature of the films that dominated this year's edition, which concluded last month. Yet a film that objectively presents multiple perspectives does not necessarily reveal the filmmaker's own worldview, particularly on the contemporary discourses it so meticulously mirrors.

The thematic through-line of the previous edition was one of existential unease. The threat of war loomed large, while anxiety and fatigue surfaced across many films. If not a sustained intellectual or artistic response, there were at least rhetorical and metaphorical expressions of these concerns throughout the festival. It recalled French philosopher and playwright Jean-Paul Sartre, who argued that human beings exist before they define themselves and can shape what they become through socio-political action. Alongside deeply personal works such as 'Sentimental Value' were films of resistance, including Jafar Panahi's 'It Was Just an Accident', Sergei Loznitsa's 'Two Prosecutors', Kleber Mendonça Filho's 'The Secret Agent' and Tarik Saleh's 'Eagles of the Republic'.

This year's crop largely bypasses that angst. Rather than confronting anxiety and fatigue directly, it responds through personal narratives. Socio-political messages emerge through subterfuge rather than explicit articulation. In that sense, this may have been the year of Albert Camus. Unlike Sartre, Camus believed that a fundamental essence of humanity precedes existence itself — that something shared binds human beings, something that others' actions can violate and that inspires a common impulse to rebel. Individual acts of rebellion within relationships became key to understanding the thematic preoccupations of this year's edition.

Above all, it was a festival about relationships and their fragility — from the sombre 'The Electric Kiss' to the highly dramatic 'All of a Sudden', and from Ryusuke Hamaguchi's work to Koji Fukoda's 'Negi Notes'. Pawel Pawlikowski's biopic 'Father Land', centred on German writer Thomas Mann, focuses less on the horrors of post-war Europe than on Mann's relationships with his children in the aftermath of World War II.

The war film 'Moulin', set during the Nazi occupation of France, similarly concentrates on the relationship between resistance hero Jean Moulin and his sadistic Gestapo tormentor Klaus Barbie.

Dormant violence and debauchery lurking beneath bourgeois existence are graphically presented in two very different works: 'Gentle Monster' and 'Minotaur'. While the former French film interrogates social morality and its impact on family relationships, the latter Russian film resonates far beyond its domestic narrative. Its subtle details point to a deeper rot within contemporary societies.

Filmmakers from war-ravaged Iran and Palestine also turned to deeply personal canvases. Many of these films were made before the current conflict and by directors living away from their homelands. Nevertheless, the festival demanded responses to contemporary global realities, at least on public platforms. Few emerged.

Pedro Almodóvar's 'Bitter Christmas' explores the ethics of transforming real people and personal experiences into fictional characters and situations, and the damage such artistic appropriation can inflict on lives and relationships. 'Yesterday the Eye Didn't Sleep' by Palestinian filmmaker Rakan Mayasi, listed as a film from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, portrays patriarchal tribal practices within a modern Palestinian setting, once again blurring the line between fiction and reality.

Cannes has long served as a platform presenting LGBTQ identities and sexual orientations as natural human phenomena.

This year, four competition titles foregrounded queer relationships — 'A Woman's Life', 'Another Day', 'The Man I Love' and 'La Bola Negra'.

Arthur Harari's 'The Unknown', built around a body-swap narrative between a man and a woman, recalls Coralie Fargeat's 2024 film 'The Substance', in which Demi Moore's character transforms into a younger version of herself through a drug. Yet both films possess little metaphorical depth or filmmaking rigour to merit serious appreciation.

The directorial debut of Nepalese filmmaker Abinash Bikram Shah, 'Elephants in the Fog' (Un Certain Regard), follows the cultural ecosystem of the Kinnar community and its matriarch, a middle-aged transgender woman. The film won the Jury Prize for its intimate cultural portrait, realised through a formal design that combines documentary realism with elements of mystery.

The high point for Indian independent cinema came with the screening of the restored version of iconoclastic filmmaker John Abraham's final Malayalam film, 'Amma Ariyan' (1986).

Apart from Zvyagintsev's 'Minotaur', most films in the top tier addressed the existential crises of individuals rather than broader social questions arising from economic and political upheaval.

This is not to suggest that personal concerns are irrelevant to the present moment. Rather, they fall short of offering a comprehensive vision of the world in a time of turmoil.

Even festival discussions were largely confined to technological interventions in cinema and questions of production, distribution and accessibility. Within the sphere of the film business itself, the absence of major Hollywood productions suggested a certain aloofness from the spirit that once shaped Cannes's global reputation.

(Full story on deccanherald.com/dh-specials)

(The author is a well-known film critic)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

A heart-wrenching story against hate

PRANATI A S

Sharvari and Vedang Raina deliver a commendable performance.

★★★★½

Main Vaapas Aaunga

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Imtiaz Ali Khan

Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Diljit Dosanjh, Sharvari, Vedang Raina

There have been many recollections and retellings from the Partition, and each time you watch it, read it or hear it, it leaves you with the same unsettling feeling. Even after so many years, the wounds that were left behind have not fully healed. The refugees eventually become citizens, but they still live with fractured identities, intergenerational trauma and with families and friends on either side of the border. Added to this are unresolved border tensions and constant violence across the world in the name of religion that continues to haunt, keeping the wounds fresh.

In 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', Imtiaz Ali Khan shows the horrors of Partition, the trauma associated with it, memory and the longing for homeland and those who were left behind, to send a message to the world against hate. And he takes no sides; it's an ode to humanity.

Ishar Singh Grewal (Naseeruddin Shah), a victim of Partition, now 95, lives in Delhi. Originally from Sargodha (West Punjab), he is a well-established businessman. Looking at him, one wouldn't imagine the kind of trauma that is buried inside him. In his fragile years and suffering from dementia, Grewal now wants to go back to Sargodha to meet the love of his life, whom he left behind, promising to return. He is stubborn about it, causing his health to deteriorate further.

As Grewal reveals further details to his grandson (Diljit Dosanjh) through cryptic code words (like Martians invading our Moon), Imtiaz takes the audience through a heart-wrenching and heartbreaking story of love and separation. Moving between timelines, the film is further enhanced by A R Rahman's music.

Among the many ironies of the two countries is how we can't go there and they can't come here, but a British citizen telling us how identical Delhi and Lahore are. Imtiaz uses it subtly to show reality's bitter contradiction. The film also highlights the convenient politics of the British that shaped the harsh political and social landscape of the two countries.

A must watch!

Nurses in focus in 26/11 drama

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY

Kangana Ranaut plays nurse Gita Gandhare.

★★★

Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Manoj Tapadia

Cast: Kangana Ranaut, Smita Tambe, Girija Oak Godbole, Esha Dey

'Bharat Bhhagya Viddhaata' opens at Mumbai's Cama & Albless Hospital (earlier known as Cama Hospital). Through Gita Gandhare (based on nurse Anjali Kulthe), played by Kangana Ranaut, and her fellow nurses, writer and director Manoj Tapadia introduces us to the infamous protocols of a government hospital, as well as the often overlooked role nurses play.

While Kangana delivers as a nurse deeply committed to her duty, Smita Tambe, Girija Oak Godbole, Esha Dey, and Rasika Agashe are also earnest in their roles. The potential of Asha Shelar and Suhita Thatte, who play a medical superintendent and head matron, is underutilised. Moments like the one where Gita declares a patient as her family and even goes on to plant a forehead kiss seem somewhat exaggerated, just to heighten the emotional quotient. While such context-setting may help connect with the characters, the pacing feels stretched as one anticipates the central conflict: the 26/11 terror attacks.

In the second half, panic and chaos take over as terrorists Ajmal Kasab (Zahid Khan) and Abu Ismail Khan (Aditya Mishra) target the hospital. From delivering babies with limited resources to protecting those seeking refuge, the nurses do it all. The writer also adds occasional humour which does not land, given the gravity of the situation.

The film brings to mind Nikkhil Advani's web series 'Mumbai Diaries 26/11', as both stories centre around Cama Hospital's staff. After the horror of the night passes, the film circles back to where it started, with the nurses denied due recognition, yet again. Despite some dramatic moments, the film works as a tribute to the nurses who stood their ground.

The secret everyone already knows

TAHER AHMED

Emily Blunt and Josh O'Connor.

★★½

Disclosure Day

English (Theatres)

Director: Steven Spielberg

Cast: Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Colin Firth, Eve Hewson

Few filmmakers possess the ability to transport audiences into another world quite like Steven Spielberg. Whether confronting aliens, dinosaurs, wars, or moral dilemmas, Spielberg's greatest strength has always been making the extraordinary feel tangible and consequential. 'Disclosure Day' arrives with a premise tailor-made for such treatment. Yet for a film built around a world-altering revelation, its biggest problem is that the answer never feels particularly elusive.

At its core, the story follows Daniel Kellner (Josh O'Connor), a determined whistleblower intent on exposing a secret agency and the truths it has concealed from the world for decades. Standing in his way is Noah Scanlon (Colin Firth), who believes that some secrets exist for a reason and that their disclosure could shatter the fragile equilibrium that keeps society functioning. Caught between the two is Margaret Fairchild (Emily Blunt), a woman who appears to possess every answer except the one that matters most — why. The cat-and-mouse dynamic drives the narrative through a series of pursuits and confrontations, but the tension rarely matches the stakes the film claims to be building towards.

The performances are among the film's strongest aspects. O'Connor, Firth and Blunt bring conviction to their roles, elevating material that often feels thinner than it should. Yet the screenplay restricts them, reducing complex questions to convenient plot devices.

For a movie centred on a secret that could redefine humanity's future, 'Disclosure Day' reaches its conclusion with surprising restraint. Rather than exploring the consequences of its premise, it settles for ambiguity. In the end, Spielberg presents a fascinating question, but never quite delivers an answer worthy of the journey.

A failed historical recollection

NIKHIL WAIKER

★

Governor: The Silent Saviour

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Chinmay D Mandlekar

Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Adah Sharma, Madhoo Shah, Noushad Mohamed Kunju

Film, as a medium, has been, time and time again, a document of the present and a recollection of the past. Filmmakers become historians and biographers, and in the spirit of Cinéma vérité, accept the subjectivity of their historical perspectives. On the other hand, state propaganda propels the superficiality of a narrative and hails it as genuine documentation of national history. Here, the intent is not an honest memoir, but rather an inflated myth synaptically demanding a conservative restoration of the "glorious past". 'Governor: The Silent Saviour', with its unfaithful portraiture of A Ramanan (character inspired by former RBI governor S Venkitaramanan), is one such film.

From underplaying Manmohan Singh's role in the 1991 economic crisis, to chest-thumping A Ramanan's (played by Manoj Bajpayee) decisions to airlift 60 tonnes of gold during a global and domestic crisis, to making journalism look like a supposed nuisance in the larger scheme of bureaucratic play, this film has all the definitive traits of a nationalist propaganda that silently, yet loudly beacons revisionism in history. The range and calibre of Manoj Bajpayee's acting cannot be the only redeeming factor about the film, when it has to work in unison with the rest of the elements within the film. Soap opera editing, lacklustre dialogues and writing, and underdeveloped characters across the film manage to ruin what little Bajpayee managed to build through his emotionally stagnant role.

All in all, the film seems to be in line with the current trend of chauvinistic, historical entertainment that has taken over the industry, while being superficial with its form, narrative, and depiction of history.

Privilege of a second chance

Can Kannada cinema create enough room for talent minus lineage? Until then, nepotism will be about a lack of opportunity, says Pranati A S

Most star children are able to get that second, third (and sometimes multiple) chances irrespective of how their first film performed.

Last week, the Kannada film industry faced a familiar question: nepotism. At the press meet for 'Mango Pachcha', the debut film of Sudeep's nephew Sanchith Sanjeev, reporters raised the issue. Sudeep's reply that artistes are ultimately judged by their work missed the point. The debate is not about success, but access to opportunity.

There is nothing unusual about helping family members enter an industry. Access may get you through the door once. Nepotism is about how many chances you get after you do.

One name that inevitably surfaces in any discussion of nepotism is Abhishek Bachchan. In a career spanning 26 years, Abhishek has appeared in more than 70 films, most of them in leading roles, despite 17 consecutive flops early on. He may not be a bad actor. But the fact that he was afforded repeated opportunities to prove it is, perhaps, the clearest illustration of nepotism. An outsider rarely survives three consecutive failures before being shown the door. Look at actors like Irrfan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, for instance, both brilliant actors, who got to play just a handful of lead roles.

The Kannada film industry is no exception. Over the years, it has lost many promising actors to a lack of opportunities. Even Sudeep had to fight his way up. His early struggles were, by his own account, shaped by the absence of industry godfathers to open doors for him.

Sudeep was lucky, but many potential actors get sidelined and are pushed to supporting roles. A senior journalist requesting anonymity says, "In an industry that churns out 200-250 films a year, star kid-led ones probably account for 5% or less. This 5% may be the juicy ones in terms of budget and crew. This is where merit should come into play. But in the absence of neutral casting coordinators, there's no rectifying this."

She looks at how even Hollywood has 'nepo kids' in film and on TV, but the dialogue hardly ever centres around their lineage/surnames. "Talent is the deciding factor," she adds.

There are many examples of how even star kids, without any talent, eventually lose out on opportunities. But they have access to elite filmmakers even during their worst phase. For instance, Sandeep Sunkad's 'Shaakhahaari', which did well on OTT has now been roped in for Rajkumar's grandson Dheeren Rajkumar's next.

Many scripts languish for years, not because they lack merit, but because their creators lack connections. Often, they are greenlit only when a star kid approves of them. Today, the industry is eager to work with Rishab Shetty. Yet not long ago, he was a struggling filmmaker and actor.

A senior actor who wanted to remain anonymous recalls how many of their struggling contemporaries would express strong resentment because of the industry's unfair practices. "When you see how the industry that you have looked up to gives someone an upper hand only because of their background and not real talent, it is heartbreaking," they add.

The actor recalls a director once calling them to appreciate their performance and express interest in working with them. However, months passed. Soon, they realised the film went to a starkid. "That is the reality, and there isn't much we can do about it," they share.

The Kannada cinema is itself in a fragile state, with producers increasingly reluctant to back newcomers. When investments are made, they usually flow towards established stars or their children. Yuva Rajkumar was launched by one of the industry's biggest banners. Though his first two films didn't do well, he continues to enjoy the support of major production houses and established filmmakers. And there are more such examples! That kind of patience is a privilege few outsiders can expect. The real question, then, is whether Kannada cinema can create space for talent without lineage. Until it does, every debate on nepotism will remain, at its core, a debate about opportunity.

Quick takes

The voice of CBFC

▸ The Central Board of Film Certification has finally cleared the Palestinian film 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' for a theatrical release in India on June 19. The docudrama follows Red Crescent volunteers who stay on the phone with six-year-old Hind Rajab, trapped in a car under fire in war-torn Gaza — mirroring Israel's atrocities. After the external affairs ministry heroically banned the film from festivals, the CBFC spent over four agonising months pondering if "allowing" its release would fracture India's "wonderful" relationship with what many believe to be a genocidal state. Our moral custodians have now "awarded" the film an Adults Only certificate.

If only the CBFC strained its collective brain tissue this much before saying yes to sexist and casteist films like 'Peddi'.

Ranbir's couple code

▸ Ranbir Kapoor has found it — the secret to a successful marriage. Find a vivacious woman and slowly, publicly erase her personality. We do not know about Alia, but we are mighty offended. First, he said, 'Off with your lipstick'. (Hail the Red King!) Next, he body-shamed her when she was pregnant. Last week, he casually said she had to "lose" her entire personality to make their life "liveable". Oh sure. Such an elegant and classy demand, innit? Coming up: Alia, breathe softly, no wait, don't exhale.

Anvitha Narender.
DH PHOTO/ ANUP RAGH T

Riya, Anvitha, Ananyaa share lead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Overnight leader Riya Jadon stayed at the top of the leaderboard where she was joined by fellow pro Anvitha Narender and amateur Ananyaa Sood for a three-way lead after day 2 of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour Leg 7 in Mysuru on Friday.

After opening with a round of three-under 67, Gurugram's Riya slipped in the second round as she scored a three-over 73 for a two-day total of 140. Bengaluru's Anvitha shot a two-under 68 following a round of 72 to climb to the top. Ananyaa's one-under 69, after a one-over 71 on Thursday, was enough for the Dubai-resident to make her surge towards the title.

The leaders will be closely be chased by Durga Nittur, Amandeep Drall, Vidhatri Urs and Anvvi Dahhiya - all of them two shots behind at 142 going into the final day.

Standings (after 36 holes):
140: Anvitha Narender (72, 68), Ananyaa Sood (A) (71, 69), Riya Jadon (67, 73); **142:** Durga Nittur (71, 71), Amandeep Drall (70, 72), Vidhatri Urs (69, 73), Anvvi Dahhiya (69, 73).

Prashanth stars in Agaram FC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prashanth K netted a brace to help Agaram FC blank Vivekananda FC 6-0 in their Group 16 tie in the BDFA C Division League tournament here on Friday.

Results: C Division: Group 13: Afghan FC: 2 (Jeevan V 11th, Darshan M 45th) bt Sarvagna Nagar FC: 0.
Group 14: Bangalore Yellows FC: 1 (Mohammed Sufiyaan 11th) bt Dharma Raj Union FC: 0; Bentex FC: 1 (Abhinav B 53rd) bt Universal FC: 0; **Group 15:** Hampi Nagar FC: 1 (Pabitra 48th) drew with Muslim Heroes FC: 1 (Chandu Bisht 4th).
Group 16: Agaram FC: 6 (Ignatius John 7th, Prashanth K 11th, 30th, Kishore 16th, ThangmanelHaoip 19th, Suraj Kuamr R 28th) bt Vivekananda FC: 0.

Oliver for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Pesi Shroff-trained Oliver, to be ridden by Vivek G, will be the favourite to win the Justice P Medapa Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races here on Saturday.
The first race starts at 2:00 pm.
1. The Snow Dew Plate (Div II) -- 1400M: Diesel 1, Jolie 's Star 2, Sling Shot 3.
2. The Sir Cecil Plate (Div II) -- 1200M: Glorious Spectre 1, Divo 2, River Deep 3.
3. The Snow Dew Plate (Div I) -- 1400M: Forever Royale 1, Agrima 2, Carter 3.
4. The Meydan Plate -- 1200M: Money Bags 1, Efficacy 2, Star Glory 3.
5. The Justice P Medapa Memorial Trophy -- 1600M: Oliver 1, Star Of India 2, Sassy Sarah 3.
6. The Dharmaprakasha L S Venkaji Rao Memorial Trophy -- 1600M: Pearl Star 1, Quannah 2, Sprezzature 3.
7. The Sir Cecil Plate (Div I) -- 1200M: Star Comet 1, Breeze Bluster 2, Noble Cause 3.
Day's Best: Money Bags.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini jackpot: 4, 5, 6 & 7.
I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
1st ODI: India vs Afghanistan **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Women's T20 WC: Scotland vs Ireland **(3 pm)**, Australia vs South Africa **(7 pm)**, West Indies vs New Zealand **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Tri-series: Afghanistan A vs Sri Lanka A **(10 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL
World Cup: Qatar vs Switzerland **(12:30 am, Sunday)**, Brazil vs Morocco **(3:30 am, Sunday)**, Haiti vs Scotland **(6:30 am, Sunday)**, Australia vs Turkiye **(9:30 am, Sunday)**, Germany vs Curacao **(10:30 pm, Sunday)**, Netherlands vs Japan **(1:30 am, Monday)**, Ivory Coast vs Ecuador **(4:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee App.**

BADMINTON
Australian Open: Semifinal **(7:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

ARCHERY
World Cup Stage 3: Compound Team finals **(12:30 pm)**, Compound mixed team and individual finals **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET FIRST ODI

Chance for India to test the bench

Focus on veteran Rohit as Gill & Co take on Afghanistan today

Indian players during a practice session ahead of the first ODI against Afghanistan in Dharamsala on Saturday. PTI

LIVE 1:30 PM, STAR SPORTS

SIDNEY KIRAN
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

On the sidelines of two showpiece tournaments — the football World Cup in the Americas and the women's T20 World Cup in the United Kingdom — India and Afghanistan will lock horns in a historic first-ever bilateral ODI series between the two nations in the scenic backdrop of the Himalayas that carries its own important overtones.

The form and fitness of veteran Rohit Sharma, the tactical nous of captain Shubman Gill, a good opportunity for Nitish Kumar Reddy to show he can step up to the all-rounder slot in the absence of Hardik Pandya, and a chance for upcoming pacers like Prince Yadav and Gurnoor Brar to shoot themselves into the spotlight, are what the three matches against Afghanistan starting Saturday at the HPCA Stadium present.

And all of this, keeping in mind the road to the ODI World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in October-November 2027, more or less starts now with a lot of white-ball cricket scheduled until the end of the year.

Starting with Rohit, who was hit by a right hamstring injury in April. Although the 39-year-old returned to competitive action on May 4 for his franchise Mumbai Indians, he got the clearance for the series from BCCI's Centre of Excellence only earlier this week. While he has looked at ease in the two 'nets' sessions, his complete fitness will be put to the test from Saturday.

The series is tailor-made for Gill to score his first triumph as a captain after assuming charge versus Australia last year. In the two series he has skippered — New Zealand at home being the other — India have lost by identical 2-1 margins and he'll be looking to make amends. Also, without seasoned pacer Jasprit Bumrah or spinners Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja, how he handles the bowling resources remains to be seen.

Talking about bowling, one wonders if India will give pacer Prasidh Krishna some rest and pair up Arshdeep Singh with young Prince or Brar. If they get a chance, they'll be hoping to make an impact.

With talisman Virat Kohli ruled out injured, a batting slot has opened up, and it appears like KL Rahul may gain a surprising promotion to No. 3 with Ishan Kishan set to take the wicketkeeper's gloves from the Bengalurean and bat at No. 5 or 6. Apart from bowling coach Mornel Morkel hinting at such a move on match eve, Kishan donned the wicketkeeper's gloves during Friday's practice with Rahul, who is actually the designated keeper of the team and has been batting at No. 5/6 since the last four years, taking only outfield catches.

For Afghanistan, playing two-time world champions India in a bilateral series is a dream come true moment. Afghanistan have clashed with India only in multi-nation events — two each in the Asia Cup and World Cup — and they'll be hoping to make this historic first a memorable one. They are on a roll, having won their past five bilateral series, that includes wins over heavyweights South Africa and Bangladesh (twice). They know a sixth on the bounce will be the game-changer they've been yearning for. India will be aware of how dangerous Afghanistan can be if taken lightly — one of the four games ended in a tie — and there won't be any room for complacency.

Squads: India: Shubman Gill (capt), Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer (vice-capt), Ishan Kishan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey.
Afghanistan: Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Darwish Rasooli, Fareed Malikzai, Ibrahim Zadran, Ikram Alikhil, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sediqullah Atal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Nangeyalia Kharote, Rahmat Shah, Rashid Khan, Bilal Sami, AM Ghazanfar, Mohammad Saleem, Ziaur Rahman.

'India may promote Rahul to No. 3'

Our vision is to give ourselves options for 2027 WC: Morkel

SIDNEY KIRAN
DHARAMSALA, DHNS

In the injury-forced absence of Virat Kohli, India are likely to try K L Rahul at No. 3 during Afghanistan ODIs. AFP

India's bowling coach Mornel Morkel made a stunning revelation that the management could promote middle-order batter KL Rahul to the No. 3 slot left vacant in the injury-forced absence of Virat Kohli in the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan starting Saturday.

"In terms of that number three slot, I think that is something that in this series we will play around with. Even if it is Ishan (Kishan) or KL or Yashasvi (Jasiwal). It is a nice opportunity now. We have got a couple of one-day games coming up and we will give guys an opportunity in different slots, just to give ourselves a better idea in terms of how we can go and structure teams and have different options," said Morkel during the pre-match press conference that took everyone by surprise.

Natural opener Rahul, often the sacrificial lamb for the Indian team across formats, has batted at No. 5 for a vast majority of his ODI career. In fact, since donning the wicketkeeper's gloves permanently in 50-overs, the 34-year-old has looked settled in the middle-order, producing game-changing knocks frequently.

With Kohli set to take back his No. 3 slot upon return from his hamstring injury, the easier option would be to play his replacement Jaiswal or Kishan there, but the management, led by head coach Gautam Gambhir, bizarrely, wants to try out another experiment.

Morkel said this series is a good chance for two young pacers, Prince Yadav and Gurnoor Brar, to make a strong first impression.

"Our vision is to give ourselves options for that World Cup in South Africa. (Jasprit) Bumrah, again with the new ball, we know what he can do. At the same time, it is good for Indian cricket that we give guys the opportunity under pressure against good opposition and see what they can do. Luckily, we have got two guys now, Prince and Gurnoor, in our squad. I am pretty sure that Gautam will give those guys an opportunity and see how they go in the Indian shirt."

Shahidi confident

Meanwhile, Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi said they are confident of scoring their maiden win over India, the only Full Member they are yet to defeat in any format. "Of course, it's a good chance for us. Because we beat all Test nations, just India remains. So, this is a good chance. But at the same time, those things don't matter for us. For us, it's to play good cricket and give them a tough time."

Shahidi's confidence comes from the fact they've won their last five bilateral series that include wins over heavyweights South Africa and Bangladesh (twice).

"I have confidence in my team because we are playing well in this format. Again, I will say that India is also our toughest opposition. I think it's a good moment for our team because it's the first time that we are playing India in India. So, it will be a good challenge for both the teams. Whichever team plays good cricket on their day will be the winner of the game."

Recuperating Chopra to miss Doha Diamond League

NEW DELHI, PTI: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is set to miss the Doha Diamond League, to be held on June 19, as he is still recuperating from a back injury in Switzerland.

Chopra, who won gold and silver medals at the 2020 and 2024 Olympics respectively, began his Diamond League campaign in Doha last year and breached the 90m mark.

The 28-year-old from Haryana is currently in Bienne, Switzerland, for a 47-day off-season training camp along with his long-time physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha and coach Jai Choudhary ahead of this year's Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

The world's best will line up at the Qatar Sports Club alongside Paris Olympics gold medallist Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan and reigning world champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago.

Neeraj Chopra

In a field will include former Olympic bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada, and world bronze medallist Curtis Thompson of the USA.

Norris pips Russell in 2nd practice

MONTMELO (SPAIN), AFP: Lando Norris edged fellow Briton George Russell by 0.009 seconds to top second practice on Friday for the Barcelona-Catalunya Formula One Grand Prix.

Reigning world champion Norris, who sat out the opening session, and his teammate Oscar Piastri sandwiched the Mercedes driver for the top three, with the Australian coming in 0.057s off the top time.

Italian teenage sensation Kimi Antonelli came in fifth, Charles Leclerc was fourth.

Bengaluru to host fourth season of Global Chess League

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Global Chess League (GCL) on Friday announced that its fourth season will be held in Bengaluru from September 3.

The GCL, which is a joint initiative of Tech Mahindra and FIDE, has already changed the format of the game including franchise teams, mixed gender lineups, and rapid fire matches.

Season 4 will once again feature the world's leading players competing in a team-based format.

Gourav Rakshit, Commissioner of the Global Chess League, Tech Mahindra Global Chess League, said, "The Global Chess League was created to transform chess into a truly global spectator sport. Bringing Season 4 to Bengaluru feels like a defining moment, not just for the league, but for the evolution of the game itself. This is where the next chapter begins."

Arkady Dvorkovich, President of FIDE, said, "We are delighted to bring Season 4 of the Global Chess League to Bengaluru. India continues to be at the forefront of the global chess movement, and Bengaluru provides the perfect setting to build on this momentum.

"We look forward to an exciting season that brings the world's best players together and further deepens engagement with fans across the country and beyond."

In previous editions, top Indian players like R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh and the legendary Viswanathan Anand have played in the event.

Viswanathan Anand

Holder, Joseph, Hope lift WI 1-0 up

KINGSTON, AP: Rovman Powell hit a six in the final over on Thursday to clinch a seven-wicket win for the West Indies over Sri Lanka in the first of three T20 matches.

West Indies made a match of it with its late slow run rate chasing 147/9, despite scoring 66 runs in its first six overs.

Needing 20 runs from 20 balls, it was reduced to needing a run a ball from nine balls before Powell clinched the win with the home side's 149/3 total with four balls remaining.

Captain and opener Shai Hope led the Caribbean team with an unbeaten 65.

After Sri Lanka won the toss and chose to bat, Kamindu Mendis top-scored with 51 runs and captain and opener Kusal Mendis added 36. The two players are not related.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 147/9 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 36, Kamindu Mendis 51; Jason Holder 3-18, Shamar Joseph 3-29) lt to West Indies: 149/3 in 19.2 overs (Brandon King 37, Shai Hope 65 n.o.; Wanindu Hasaranga 2-32). **Result:** West Indies won by 7 wickets. **PoM:** Jason Holder

Sindhu moves into semis

SYDNEY, PTI

India's PV Sindhu outclassed Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu 21-6, 21-9 to march into the semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament. AFP

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu stormed into the women's singles semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game victory, here on Friday.

The third-seeded Indian outclassed Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu 21-6, 21-9 in a one-sided quarterfinal contest that lasted just 27 minutes.

The former world champion Sindhu will next face top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, who ended the impressive run of Indian teenager Tanvi Sharma with a 21-14, 21-14 victory in 32 minutes.

Sindhu incidetnally holds a narrow 15-13 head-to-head advantage over the world No. 3 Japanese.

Sindhu dominated proceedings from the outset, using her superior reach and court coverage to keep her opponent under constant pressure.

She raced through the opening game before maintaining the momentum in the second to seal her place in the last-four.

Indian squad

All India junior ranking medallist Tanvi Patri and Abhinav Garg will lead a strong Indian contingent at the Badminton Asia Junior (U-19) championships to be held in Yatsushiro, Japan from June 26-July 5.

The team championships will be conducted from June 26-30 with the individual events scheduled thereafter.

Boys: singles: Abhinav Garg, Dev Ruparelia, Jagsher Singh Khangurra, Dhyan Santosh.
Girls singles: Tanvi Patri, Tanvi Reddy Andluri, Adarshini Shri N B, Shaina Manimuthu.
Men's doubles: Pavan S/Punith S, Amarjit Singh Khwairakpam/Divyansh Agrawal.
Women's doubles: Diya Bheemaiah B/Baruni Parshwal; Durga Esha Kandrapu/Keerthy Manchala.
Mixed doubles: Punit S/Deepak Raj Aditi; Bjorn Jaison/Dianka Waldia.

Shrijith, Praveen take Vultures into final against SUCC (2)

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shrijith K L (101) scored a brilliant hundred and teammate Praveen Dubey (65 n.o. & 4/25) delivered with both bat and ball as Vultures Cricket Club beat Swastic Union Cricket Club (1) by 25 runs via VJD method to punch their final ticket in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy for Group I-I, II, III division and qualifiers from IV, V division clubs tournament.

LOCAL CRICKET

The other semifinal saw Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) beat Herons Cricket Club by seven wickets to seal their berth into the summit clash.

Brief scores: Vultures Cricket Club: 274/8 in 50 overs (Shrijith KL 101, Karthikeya KP 41, Smaran R 35, Praveen Dubey 65 n.o.; Abhilash 2 63, Shreyas Gopal 2-35, Paras Gurbax Arya 2-56) bt Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 222 all out in 41.3 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 110, Jasper EJ 69 n.o.; Praveen Dubey 4-25, Karthikeya KP 3-59).
Herons Cricket Club: 179 all out in 33.1 overs (Sanjay Ashwin C 39, Aditya Mani 63 n.o.; Manvanth Kumar L 2-32, Hardik Raj 3-20, Pranav NV 2-33) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (2): 181/3 in 23.4 overs (MD Taha 28, Vishal Onat 54 n.o., Aneeshwar Gautam 51 n.o., Hardik Raj 37 n.o.)

Tejashwini steers Palar Sports Club into final

BENGALURU, DHNS: BG Tejashwini's all-round efforts helped Palar Sports Club, Kolar beat Friends Union Cricket Club (1) by 19 runs in the semifinals of the KSCA Senior Women's T20 tournament at the Alur 4 Grounds, and seal a final date with Vultures Cricket Club.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, Tejashwini's 49, along with Prerana GR's 48, took Palar Sports Club to 163/8 in 20 overs.

Chasing 164 for a spot in the final, Friends Union Cricket Club (1) were shot out for 144 in 19.4 overs. Saina Kapoor (3/29) and Prathyusha Challuru (3/16) shared six wickets, while Tejashwini (2/20) bagged two.

In the other last-four encounter, Pooja Kumari's unbeaten 62 helped Vultures Cricket Club score a 65-run victory over Coles Cricket Club.

Brief scores: Semifinals: Vultures Cricket Club: 128/5 in 20 overs (Pooja Kumari 62 n.o., Annapurna Bhosale 31; Trisha DA 2-4, Mansi Pundeer 2-25) bt Coles Cricket Club: 63 all out in 18.5 overs (Bhumika R 2-7).
Palar Sports Club, Kolar: 163/8 in 20 overs (Prerana GR 48, BG Tejashwini 49; Namita D'Souza 2-25, Reethu 2-31, Chandasi K 2-24) bt Friends Union Cricket Club (1): 144 all out in 19.4 overs (Shubha S 25, Krishika Reddy 39, Namita D'Souza 26; Priya Chavan 2-42, Saina Kapoor 3-29, Prathyusha Challuru 3-16, BG Tejashwini 2-20).

IN BRIEF

Sr-ranking badminton from Jun 14

The Yonex Sunrise Karnataka State U-19 & Senior Ranking Badminton tournament will be held at the PET Badminton Indoor Stadium in Mandya from June 14 to June 20, reports DHNS.

Falcon HC hold 5 'C' SC

Falcon Hockey Club fought their way back into the match from a 0-2 deficit to hold 5 'C' Sports Club to 2-2 during their closely-fought contest at the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship on Friday, reports DHNS.

Following Vinay (14th) and Amit's (24th) one goal apiece for 5 'C' Sports Club, Sridhar and Suresh scored in the 34th and 39th minutes respectively to help Falcon HC eqaulise and walk away with a draw.
Results: Falcon HC: 2 (Sridhar 34th, Suresh 39th) drew with 5 'C' Sports Club: 2 (Vinay 14th, Amit 24th).

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Mexico's Raul Jimenez scores their second goal past South Africa's Ronwen Williams during their World Cup opener at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. REUTERS

Mexico start home party on winning note

Hosts blank 9-man SA in a match marred by three red cards

MEXICO CITY, REUTERS

Mexico got the World Cup party started as the co-hosts swept away South Africa 2-0 on Thursday in an encounter with three red cards as the pyrotechnic smoke of the opening ceremony gave way to a cloud of red mist at a thrumming Azteca stadium.

The match fired the starting gun for the quadrennial football extravaganza, yet the scrappy encounter will likely be remembered not for its thrilling football but for its flurry of dismissals.

Julian Quinones's early strike set the tone for a dominant Mexican display in the Group A encounter with Raul Jimenez's header midway through the second half removing any lingering tension for the home crowd.

South Africa were reduced to 10 men when Sphephelo Sithole was sent off early in the second half, with his team-mate Themba Zwane following him off the pitch before Mexico's Cesar Montes was dismissed in the dying moments.

The ill-tempered encounter spoiled an otherwise party atmosphere, yet the home crowd got to celebrate an opening victory that will set them up nicely to make it out of a group that also includes South Korea and the Czech Republic.

Mexico	South Africa
2	0

Day of firsts

It was a day of firsts for the World Cup, as the first 48-team edition, and the first to be held in three countries, got underway in the first stadium to host three World Cup openers.

It was fitting therefore that the first of a record 104 matches had Mexico clinch a first win in the tournament's opening match after seven previous failures and of course, it was the first World Cup opener to feature three red cards.

The fixture was a repeat of the 2010 tournament opener, when South Africa held Mexico to a 1-1 draw in Johannesburg, yet this encounter was played out in a stadium with World Cup history stamped all over it.

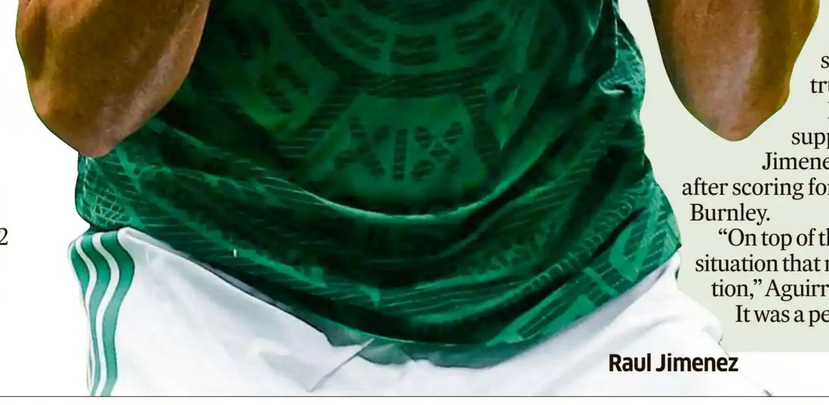
The Azteca has witnessed some of the tournament's most iconic moments, from Maradona's 'Hand of God' and 1986 heroics to Pele's all-conquering Brazil side of 1970.

The game was barely minutes old when Jimenez stung the fingertips of South Africa goalkeeper Ronwen Williams with a volley from 12 yards, but the tournament's opening goal was not long in coming.

Sithole was robbed on the edge of his own box by Lira, preferred in the heart of midfield to captain Edson Alvarez, and he quickly fed Quinones who danced inside before drilling a low finish beneath Williams.

South Africa were clinging on for dear life as the first half came to a close and the second began in a similar vein.

The game's finale was dominated by the dismissals.



Raul Jimenez

Jimenez lives long-awaited World Cup moment

Raul Jimenez finally had his star moment in a World Cup for Mexico. The 35-year-old striker burst into tears after scoring El Tri's second goal against South Africa as Mexico opened the FIFA World Cup with a 2-0 win, reports AFP from Mexico City.

It was the first World Cup goal for Jimenez, who suffered a skull fracture while playing for Wolverhampton on November 29, 2020, and had to undergo a lifesaving surgery.

Within two weeks, Jimenez was back at training. He fully recovered several months later, but the injury forced him to wear protective headgear for the rest of his career.

Jimenez has suffered other injuries and dips in form in the years since, including a poor 2022 World Cup. He failed to score as Mexico failed to reach the knockout stage for the first time since 1978.

His biggest moment for Mexico may have been a bicycle kick in a victory against Panama in qualifying for the 2014 World Cup, which was honoured as the CONCACAF goal of the year. He was a reserve player for El Tri during that tournament in Brazil.

"I read an interview where he said this has to be his World Cup," Mexico coach Javier Aguirre said. "I think he got off to a flying start. He had always been in someone else's shadow, but today he is a starter for this team - and he has truly earned it."

In March, Jimenez lost his biggest supporter when his father, Raul Jimenez Vega, died at 62. Jimenez wept after scoring for Fulham on March 21 against Burnley.

"On top of that, he was dealing with a personal situation that may have given him extra motivation," Aguirre said. "And he even scored a goal. It was a perfect day for him."

South Korea impress with a Czech-mate

GUADALAJARA, AP

Hwang In-beom scored a goal and set up another as South Korea rallied to defeat the Czechia 2-1 in the second match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Thursday night.

After a lackluster first half in which both teams were jeered as they left the field, the Czechia took the lead in the 59th minute on a header by captain Ladislav Krejci after a long throw-in into the penalty area.

South Korea equalised in the 67th, when Hwang scored after faking a shot with a nifty move to clear two Czech players. The midfielder who plays for Dutch club Feyenoord then made the cross from the right flank for Oh Hyeon-gyu's decisive strike in the 80th in a match played in front of hundreds of empty seats at Guadalajara Stadium.

The South Korean squad celebrated with its fans behind one of the goals after the final whistle. Players later posed for a photo with the fans behind them.

"It was our first game and a very difficult one," South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo said. "The win itself makes me happy, but what's even more positive is that our boys won by not giving up. I knew that we were more than capable of winning, so at 1-1, I told the boys to keep playing the way we've been playing."

South Korea	Czechia
2	1

It was South Korea's first opening World Cup win since it beat Greece in 2010 in South Africa. South Korea beat European opponent in the tournament for a third straight time, following wins over Portugal in 2022 and Germany in 2018.

Let by star forward Son Heung-min, South Korea controlled possession and outshot the Czechs, who were making their first World Cup appearance since 2006. The Koreans, ranked 25th by FIFA, had most of the significant scoring chances against the 38th-ranked Czechs but failed to capitalise early.

Son was looking to become South Korea's top goal scorer at the World Cup and the Asian player with the most goals in the tournament. The 33-year-old former Tottenham star, who now plays for Los Angeles FC of Major League Soccer, entered Thursday having scored three goals over three prior World Cups.

Appearing in his fourth World Cup, Son had a couple of good opportunities to add to his tally but missed wide in the first half and had a close-range shot saved in the second.

The Czechs thought they had retaken the lead with another set piece in the 77th, but Tomas Soucek was ruled offside on his header.

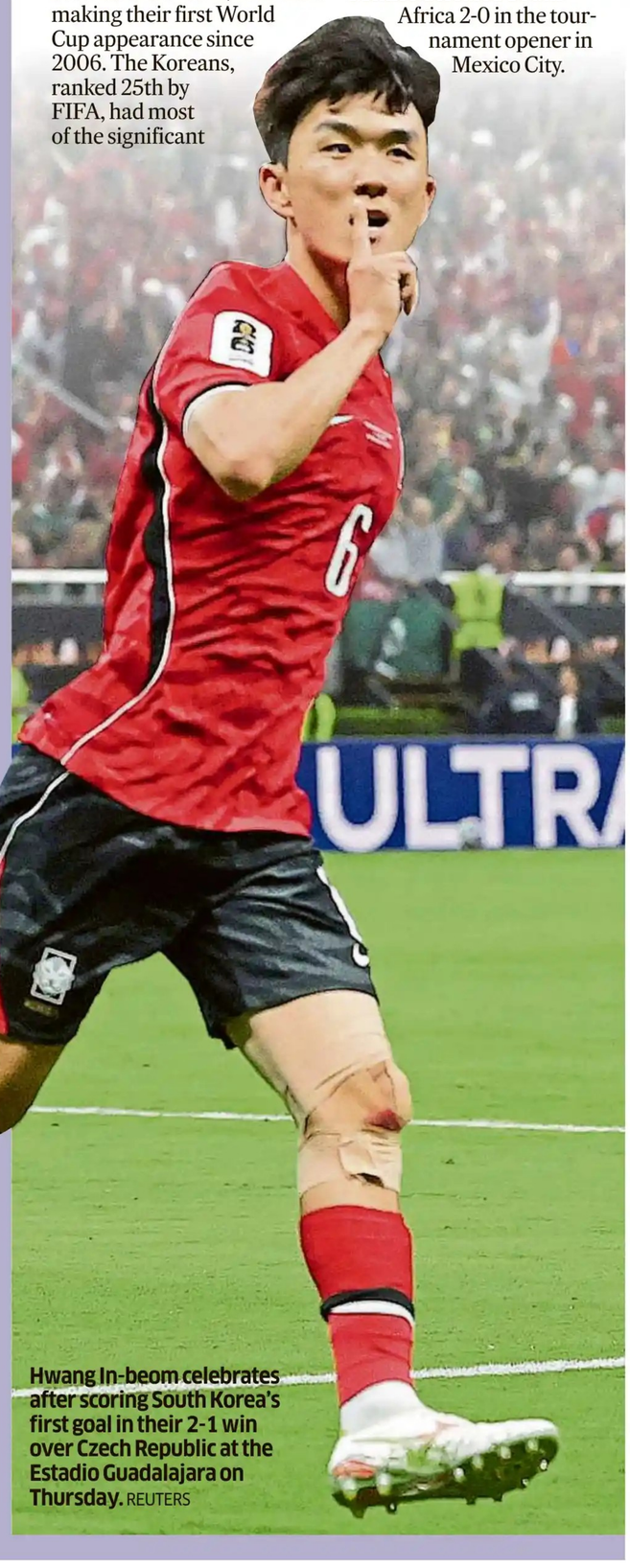
Czechia coach Miroslav Koubek said "probably the better team won." But he said his team could have had a better outcome if it weren't for "some mistakes."

"We played very well, it could have been a draw and we could have won as well," Koubek said.

The announced attendance was 44,985 at the 45,664-capacity Guadalajara Stadium, a crowd that included FIFA President Gianni Infantino. Sections in the middle of the stands had many unoccupied seats and there were other empty seats scattered across the stadium.

South Korea is making its 11th straight World Cup appearance and 12th overall, the most of any Asian country. Its best result was a fourth-place finish at the tournament it co-hosted with Japan in 2002. Since then, the South Koreans have never gone beyond the round of 16.

In the other Group A match on Thursday, co-host Mexico defeated South Africa 2-0 in the tournament opener in Mexico City.



Hwang In-beom celebrates after scoring South Korea's first goal in their 2-1 win over Czech Republic at the Estadio Guadalajara on Thursday. REUTERS

Ronaldo 'very positive' as Portugal head for World Cup

LISBON, AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo **(in pic)** said on Friday that he was feeling "very positive" before flying out of Lisbon with the Portuguese team to their World Cup base camp in Palm Beach, Florida.

"We're approaching this competition with a lot of hope," said the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

"The preparation has been very good, tiring, because we have worked hard," continued the veteran Portugal captain who insisted he was "physically good".

"I am very positive, I believe things will go well and that we will put in a good performance.

"It's a very good generation... which will bring a lot of joy to the Portuguese people," the forward said of the squad around him.

"The most important thing is to start well, with the first match, then follow up with the second and third... finish top of the group and from there, take it one match at a time," he added.

Portugal open their World Cup campaign on June 17 in Houston against the Democratic Republic of Congo, before facing Uzbekistan and Colombia in Group K.

Scotland, Haiti target win with tougher games ahead

BOSTON, REUTERS

Scotland and Haiti cannot afford to start their World Cup campaigns gently when they meet on Saturday with both teams in need of a quick win in their tournament opener ahead of tougher opposition in the next two games.

Five-time world champions Brazil and Morocco - who defeated Spain and Portugal en route to the semi-finals in 2022 - are also in Group C, putting pressure on Les Grenadiers under French coach Sebastien Migne and Steve Clarke's Scotland to take all three points at the Boston Stadium.

Neither country has ever reached the knockout phase of a World Cup: Haiti lost their three group games at their only previous appearance in 1974 while Scotland have fallen at the first hurdle in all eight of theirs.

But the enlargement of the competition and the introduction this year of the round of 32 will make it easier than ever to advance, and a total of three points from the group stage plus a respectable goal difference are likely to be enough.

Both teams head to Boston with confidence.

Scotland scored eight goals in two warm-up games against Curacao and Bolivia, conceding only once.

Clarke - leading the Scots to their first World Cup since 1998 - said he was facing "fantastic problems" selecting his starting 11 with several players hitting form.

Lawrence Shankland, newly signed by Glasgow giants Rangers, scored three goals in the two recent friendlies, while Torino forward Che Adams got a brace against Bolivia.

Scotland midfielder Ryan Christie told the BBC that no one was complacent about Haiti - ranked 83rd by FIFA - "but it gives us the chance to get off to a good start. You probably look at the group and that's the easiest on paper."

Haiti - bolstered by the inclusion of Jean-Ricner Bellegarde and Wilson Isidor, who both have English Premier League experience - thrashed New Zealand 4-0 before conceding two late goals to lose 2-1 to Peru in their pre-World Cup matches.

The Caribbean islanders, who played their home World Cup qualifying matches abroad due to gang warfare in Haiti, rely on foreign-based players with the sole exception of midfielder Woodensky Pierre. Migne, the coach, has not set foot in Haiti.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

WORLD CUP

Haaland enjoys some ice hockey!

Days before his World Cup debut, striker Erling Haaland and several of his Norway team-mates took a chance to relax at game five of the NHL Stanley Cup Final on Thursday, reports AFP from Washington.

A smiling Haaland waved to Carolina Hurricanes fans when he and his team-mates were shown on the giant scoreboard screens at the Lenovo Center in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As they cheered, the 25-year-old Manchester City striker enthusiastically twirled a small Hurricanes rally towel handed out to fans by the home team, who came into the contest tied with the Las Vegas Golden Knights at 2-2 in the best-of-seven championship series.

Let them drink beer! Ecuador cuts prices

Violence-plagued Ecuador has had generally little cause for celebration lately, so to inject a little cheer President Daniel Noboa on Thursday cut the price of beer for the duration of the World Cup, reports AFP from Quito.

"We are going to remove the Special Consumption Tax from all beverages consumed in moderation, including beer, during the World Cup. This way, the price of beer will drop by more than 20 percent," he said to applause.

Team from Ebola-hit DR Congo enters US

The World Cup team from Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been hit by an outbreak of Ebola, was allowed to enter the United States on Thursday, reports AFP from Houston.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka, who plays in England for West Ham, said after coming through immigration at Houston airport the team had not faced any problems. US authorities had insisted the squad serve a 21-day quarantine period before entering US soil.

Police, protesters clash in Mexico

Dozens of protesters clashed with police on Thursday outside the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City as South Africa and Mexico played the first match of the World Cup before 80,000 fans, reports AFP from Mexico City.

Groups of teachers, relatives of Mexicans who have gone missing, and student activists gathered early Thursday outside the stadium amid a heavy police presence.

Coach Popovic extends contract

Australia coach Tony Popovic signed a contract extension Thursday ahead of their World Cup opener against Turkey that will take him through to the Asian Cup early next year, reports AFP from Oakland.

Popovic was appointed in 2024 to replace Graham Arnold, who is now the coach of Iraq and also at the World Cup.

In his 18 matches in charge, he has won 10, drawn four and lost four.

Messi superfan welcomes World Cup

On the balcony of his house in Indonesia, Muhammad Yusuf swayed to blaring music and waved a replica of the World Cup trophy as hundreds paraded past, many decked out in Argentina's colours, reports AFP from Polewali Mandar, Indonesia.

The 54-year-old fisherman from a small village in Polewali Mandar, West Sulawesi, has been a superfan of the Argentine football team since the 1980s and adores superstar Lionel Messi.

Bruised Brazil face Morocco in heavyweight test

Vinicius Jr to lead attack under Ancelotti's steer; Neymar out of opener

EAST RUTHERFORD
NEW JERSEY, REUTERS

Brazil begin their latest hunt for a long-awaited sixth World Cup crown on Saturday with little room for a gentle landing, facing up-and-coming Morocco in a Group C opener that will test the side's ability to cope with a lengthy injury list.

The record five-time winners arrive in North America under Carlo Ancelotti, whose World Cup debut as a coach comes a little over a year after he left Real Madrid following a glittering haul of European titles to take on one of football's most demanding rescue missions. Brazil have endured three turbulent years, four managers and a series of disappointments, while Neymar's long decline from untouchable talisman

Carlo Ancelotti

to fitness gamble has added uncertainty.

Where other leading contenders get a chance to ease their players into the tournament against more modest opposition, Brazil start against what is expected to be their sternest Group C test.

Morocco were the great disruptors of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, knocking out Spain and Portugal before losing to France in the semi-finals. Built around a generation of players shaped in the academies and leagues of Spain and France, they return with enough quality to make Brazil's opening night uncomfortable.

However, they also arrive with turbulence of their own. Morocco began 2026 by losing the Africa Cup of Nations final to Senegal on home soil, only to be later awarded the title in a controversial punishment for their rivals' walking off the pitch in protest at a penalty awarded against them. Weeks later, long-serving coach Walid Regragui quit three months before the World Cup and was replaced by Belgian-born Mohamed Ouahbi, promoted from the youth set-up after guiding Morocco to the under-20 World Cup title in Chile last year.

Injury disruptions

Injuries have added to the disruption, with Nayef Aguerd and Abde Ezzalzouli cut from the 26-man squad after being hurt in Morocco's final friendly against Norway on Sunday.

Brazil, however, have suffered their own medical avalanche.

Ancelotti has lost Rodrygo, Estevao, Eder Militao and Wesley, all potential starters, while Neymar has been ruled out of the Morocco match as he continues to recover from a calf injury. When he may return, and in what condition, remains uncertain. Brazil still boast a formidable centre back pairing in Marquinhos and Gabriel Magalhaes, but Ancelotti must improvise at right back after losing Wesley and versatile Militao.

Danilo and Ibanez are competing for the role, with midfielder Ederson also an option.

Further forward, Ancelotti will lean heavily on Vinicius Jr, whom he helped develop at Real Madrid into one of the game's most devastating attackers.

Brazil never slip quietly into a World Cup, but expectations are unusually restrained. Morocco will test whether Ancelotti's club alchemy can travel — and whether Qatar's great fairytale has a sequel.

Brazil's Vinicius Junior during a training session in New Jersey, ahead of their match against Morocco on Saturday. REUTERS

Australia first up for Turkey in World Cup return

VANCOUVER, REUTERS

Young attacking midfielder Arda Guler will lead a hungry Turkey side as they make their return to the World Cup finals for the first time in more than two decades against an Australia squad brimming with youthful vigour in their Group D opener at Vancouver's BC Place on Saturday.

Despite strong showings in the European Championship in recent years, Turkey have not played at a World Cup since making the semi-finals in 2002, and though the 21-year-old Guler was not even born back then, he will bear the attacking hopes of his soccer-mad nation on his shoulders.

"He has talent, intuition, reading of the game; he knows when to slow down, when to go vertical, and he knows how to score. He has an innocent face, but he is very clever," Turkey coach Vincenzo Montella said.

"He has talent, plays at a high level, and handles a lot of pressure."

While Guler's shoulders may be broad enough to carry that burden, there are worries over his physical fitness after he sustained a hamstring injury late in his club season with Real Madrid that caused him to miss the run-in.

Appearances against North Macedonia and Venezuela put some of those fears to rest, but Guler's task will not be an easy one as Turkey take on an Australian squad that made it to the last 16 of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where they lost to eventual winners Argentina.

Australia have rung the changes since and could have 17 World Cup debutants at this tournament, including two uncapped players in Japan-based striker Tete Yengi, 25, and 22-year-old attacker Cristian Volpato, who switched allegiance from Italy to Australia just ahead of the tournament.

"I think Turkey's got a lot of pressure as well because they haven't been to a major tournament World Cup since 2002," Australian defender Milos Degenek told reporters ahead of Saturday's match in Vancouver.

"There's a lot hope on them and a lot pressure, but we're ready for that definitely."

With co-hosts the U.S. and Paraguay also in their group, both of these young sides will be keen to get off to a good start on Saturday, with Australia coach Tony Popovic saying he didn't think the relative inexperience of his players would affect them.

"What we have is a lot of young exuberance, a lot of exciting talent, which is the start of a new cycle," he said.

(Reporting by Philip O'Connor; additional reporting by Ian Ransom and Ece Toksabay, editing by Ed Osmond)

All of 21, Arda Guler will be leading Turkey who return to WC after 22 years. REUTERS

Minnows Curacao challenge for giants Germany in opener

NORTH CAROLINA (USA), REUTERS

Curacao should not be underestimated when Germany take on the Caribbean islanders in their World Cup Group E opener on Sunday, but the four-times champions will make a winning start to the tournament, Germany defender Nico Schlotterbeck said on Thursday.

Only a convincing win will do against Curacao with Germany eager to start the tournament strongly after shock first-round exits in 2018 and 2022.

Curacao is a self-governing part of the Netherlands, with a population of just over 150,000 and a land area of 171 square miles (443 square km). All their players are Dutch nationals as is their coach Dick Advocaat and it is the smallest country to qualify for the World Cup.

"We had a team discussion yesterday on Curacao and it is a good team with players who have been trained in the Netherlands," Schlotterbeck told a press conference. "But we are the favourites and I am confident we will win the match."

The Germans also play Ivory Coast on June 20 and Ecuador in Group E.

"I see in the Germany team many players with a lot of quality, a lot of players at their peak and a few playing their last World Cup," Schlotterbeck said. "You have a mix that is really good. Everyone is just looking forward to it."

The Germans will be playing in hot weather in Houston with temperatures expected around 30 degrees Celsius but the players said their focus was only on the first match. They also said they have been feeling no pressure whatsoever going into their opening game.

"There is no pressure. We are going into this with confidence and on Sunday we want to show how good we are," Schlotterbeck said. "There is no motivation to show everyone what we can do (after the two World Cup first-round exits," Schlotterbeck said. "We should not be hiding from anyone. We are a top, top, top team and we have been showing the German virtues on the pitch once again after a very long time."

"We have discipline, passion and ability to resist and if we show our German virtues then we are well placed."

Qatar seek redemption against Switzerland

SANTA CLARA, REUTERS: Qatar take on Switzerland in their World Cup opener on Saturday eager to shake off the pressure of expectation, coming in as back-to-back Asian champions with an urgent need to make amends for a dismal debut as hosts of the 2022 tournament.

Switzerland's head coach Murat Yakin (left) and Qatar's manager Julen Lopetegui. AFP

Qatar's 2022 unravelling was unprecedented, losing all three matches and scoring once, but after rebounding to defend their Asian Cup title and qualifying easily for this World Cup, they have unfinished business and need a strong showing to earn any credibility on the global stage. They might have hoped for a more gentle introduction, with the resurgent Swiss unbeaten in competitive matches since late 2024 following an impressive Euros run, and keen to make a mark in their sixth successive World Cup.

"We have to accept the fact that we will play against Switzerland first, and we have to be ready to do our best against a very strong team," Qatar's Spanish coach Julen Lopetegui said.

"We know our real reality, and that the competitors are better than us, but this does not mean surrendering ... it requires us to be ready in order to achieve our ambition and dream of being a strong contender." With a squad of players mainly from their domestic league, Qatar have a cohesive unit that has been formidable in Asia but could struggle to fend off higher-level opposition in a Group B that also includes Bosnia and hosts Canada.

Against Switzerland their fate could rest on defensive organisation and conditions that will ensure top goalscorer Almoez Ali and Akram Afif can get into the game.

Endo calls time on career

Wataru Endo

NASHVILE, AFP: Japan captain Wataru Endo was ruled out of the World Cup with injury and announced his international retirement on Thursday, three days before his team's opener against the Netherlands.

The Liverpool midfielder pulled out of the tournament after failing to recover from a foot injury, and was replaced in Japan's squad by Borussia Monchengladbach's Shuto Machino.

The 33-year-old Endo said that he was "frustrated" at not being able to play but backed his team to impress in Group F.

Germany's Nico Schlotterbeck (right) said his team will not underestimate the smallest nation to qualify for the World Cup, Curacao, when they begin their campaign on Saturday. AFP

Williamson calls time on career

Kiwi is regarded as one of NZ's greatest cricketers

CHRISTCHURCH/LONDON, PTI

One of the finest batters of his time and the face of New Zealand cricket's most successful era, Kane Williamson announced his retirement from international cricket on Friday, ending a distinguished career marked by consistency, impeccable temperament and exemplary leadership.

Arguably New Zealand's greatest ever batter, Williamson's announcement pulls the curtain down on a glorious 16-year international career that has seen him play 378 games for his country, setting countless batting records and earning the respect and admiration of the cricketing world.

His decision follows an earlier call to step way from T20 Internationals in 2025.

"I've thought about it for a while, but over the last few days it's become clear now is the right time. I've always felt a strong drive and hunger for international cricket, and I take pride in knowing I've given it my all in every match I've played for New Zealand," Williamson said in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket.

"Continuing with anything less wouldn't be right and I feel fortunate to step away on my own terms," he added.

The 35-year-old finishes as New Zealand's all-time leading international run-scorer across all formats with 19,346 runs, including over 9500 runs in Test cricket with 33 centuries and six double tons. Across formats, he slammed 48 centuries and six double-centuries.

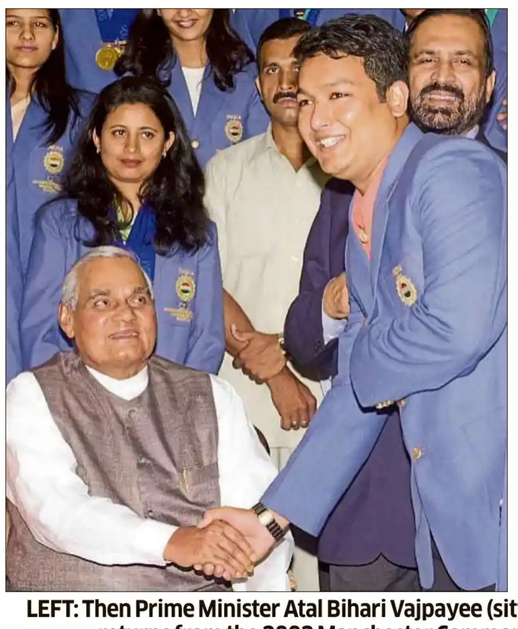
Under his leadership, the Black caps made two ICC World Cup Finals, three semifinals, and won the inaugural World Test Championship in 2021.

Williamson career

Format	Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100s	50s
Tests	110	9,515	251	54.06	51.97	33	38
ODIs	175	7,256	148	48.69	81.59	15	47
T20Is	93	2,575	95	33.44	123.08	0	18

One of New Zealand's most decorated cricketers, Kane Williamson played 378 games for his country, setting several batting records and earning respect. AFP

UNTIMELY DEMISE



LEFT: Then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (sitting left) congratulates shooter Jaspal Rana after the Indian team's returns from the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games, at Prime Minister's residence, in New Delhi. Rana was a prolific shooter, winning 15 Commonwealth Games, eight Asian Games medals besides representing India at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. PTI

Shooting star who hit the bull's eye as a coach

Jaspal Rana, from Page 1

At just 18, he was an Asian Games champion at Hiroshima the same year, capturing the imagination of the Indian public.

The Rana family -- his brother Subash and sister Sushma were both shooters -- was the cynosure at National events while the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games were Jaspal's favourite playfields. Doha 2006 was a career high as he equaled the world record in centrefire pistol en route to claiming three gold medals. Four Asian Games gold and nine Commonwealth Games titles studded a stellar career but an Olympic medal proved too tough a peak -- not because he lacked talent, but for the fact that his main events, centrefire pistol and standard pistol, were not part of the Olympic programme.

"If I was focused on standard pistol and centrefire pistol, there was a reason for it. I did not have the mindset to give up on something I was so good at and which gave Indian shooting such an identity, and pursue something I was not so good at," Rana had told the Sportstar magazine in an interview.

Years later, success at the Olympics would come to him as a coach, with his ward Manu Bhaker winning two bronze medals at Paris 2024. It was a sweet reward after a bitter fallout earlier between the two and Rana's commitment towards grooming India's next generation of shooters continued even after the Paris high. His demise, just days before his 50th birthday, robs the nation's young shooters of a firm guiding hand but memories -- of his triumphs, tears and heaps of gold medals -- will live on.

(The writer is a former Sports Editor of Deccan Herald)

Prime Minister leads a flood of tributes to departed Rana

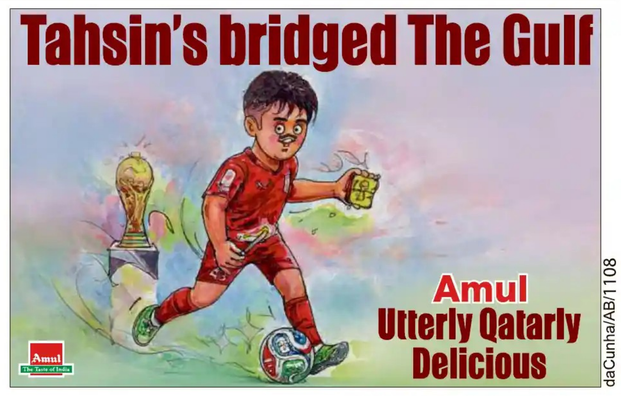
NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the sporting world in mourning the untimely demise of renowned Indian shooter and coach Jaspal Rana, describing his passing as "a profound loss to the nation."

Rana, 49, who brought laurels to the country through his achievements as an elite shooter and later played a key role in nurturing young talent as a coach, died due to complications related to heart.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Jaspal Rana Ji. His passing is a profound loss to the world of Indian sports," PM Modi wrote on X. "He brought immense glory to the nation through his extraordinary achievements in shooting. Equally remarkable was his contribution as a mentor, shaping and guiding young athletes with great dedication."

Olympic champion shooter Abhinav Bindra said he was heartbroken by Rana's passing, recalling their association as team-mates and his contribution to Indian shooting.

"Heartbroken to hear about Jaspal Rana's passing. He was intense, gifted, and carried the pride of the country every time he stepped onto the range".



Why Real are gambling on Mourinho return

MADRID, AFP: After two seasons without major silverware, Real Madrid president Florentino Perez activated the nuclear option.

Finally, the time is ripe for Jose Mourinho's **(in pic)** return to the Bernabeu.

It took one of the most chaotic seasons in their history for Perez to turn again to Mourinho, who like the team is in dire need of a trophy after a recent drought

On the pitch, Madrid failed both domestically and in Europe, sparking tensions amongst players and supporters.

There was a dressing room bust-up resulting in Federico Valverde going to hospital, while fans protested against Perez and superstar striker Kylian Mbappe.

With the failed European Super League project finally abandoned, in recent months Perez and Madrid have refocused on going to war with arch-rivals Barcelona again.

Thirteen years after Mourinho left, the combative Portuguese veteran returns with a similar remit to when he was appointed in 2010 -- stop Barcelona, at any cost.

Then, it was Pep Guardiola's all-conquering side Mourinho had to battle with, now it is Hansi Flick's great entertainers.

Real believe Mourinho can once again turn a talented but fragile team into an uncompromising side of winners.

Mourinho's appointment, after several seasons away from the European elite, with stints in Turkey and his native Portugal, is undoubtedly a gamble.

However, it is one which Madrid's 79-year-old president has been tempted by for several years.

Perez never lost respect for Mourinho after his first spell at the club, one which the Madrid chief believes laid the foundations for Real's future European success, making them more resilient and harder-edged.

Mourinho could not lead them to their much-craved 10th Champions League title himself but his successor Carlo Ancelotti did in 2014.

Five more arrived in the decade that followed for the record 15-time winners.

"He raised our competitive level... and from there we won six Champions Leagues in 10 years," said Perez in May.

Perez acknowledged back in 2013 that Mourinho was leaving by mutual consent and not by his oft-wielded axe. It was an unfinished project.

In the years since, Real have taken on Mourinho's antagonistic mindset, intensifying the environment he fostered.

FUEL THE ROAD
TO INDIA'S PROGRESS.
SWITCH TO EV.
BREAKING NEWS
AN APPEAL TO SAVE FUEL
AMID GLOBAL CRISIS
With global supply chains facing disruptions due to the war in West Asia, citizens are being urged to use petrol, diesel and gas with "greater restraint" to safeguard the Indian economy.
It was suggested to resume work-from-home practices, use public transport and reduce fuel consumption so that India can conserve vital
So far, oil companies ha
were also asked to
from buying
and
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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, June 13, 2026

Wknd.

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

ALLURE OF PURPLE
PAGE 02

BIG BANGLE THEORY
PAGE 03

Nandhana Palace opens 31st branch at Nagasandra Metro station

Nandhana Palace, the Andhra-style veg and non-veg restaurant, has opened its 31st branch at Nagasandra Metro station on Tumakuru Road, Bengaluru. The new branch was inaugurated by FKCCI President Uma Reddy. Dr R Ravichandar, Chairman and Managing Director of Nandhana Palace; Sairam Prasad, Vice President of FKCCI, PC Rao, Honorary President of the Bengaluru Hotel Owners Association and Chandradhar, Director of Sangeetha Mobiles were present at the inauguration.

Show Buzz | Anurag Vyas

'Acting is a marathon, not a sprint...'

Actor Anurag Vyas completed eight years in showbiz. He has played pivotal roles in popular TV shows including Naagin, Aashiqana, Doree and Jaal. It is his innate ability to transform negative characters into winsome persona on screen that makes him an actor to watch out for.

Shilpi Madan caught up with him for this chat.

From Bikaner to Mumbai, how has the journey been?
Bikaner has been more than just my hometown - it became my mini film school. I spent close to four years doing theatre there, and during that phase I also set up my own production house - Golden Sand Productions. I directed, wrote, assisted and learnt filmmaking from the ground up. That period gave me a strong foundation and clarity about storytelling.

When I moved to Mumbai, life started at the most basic level living in a chawl with friends and chasing auditions every day. My very first audition got me selected for a lead role. A contract was signed, and then I was dropped from the project. It was a hard moment, but it became a turning point. That experience gave me the confidence that if I could reach that stage once, I could do it again. From that day on, self-belief became non-negotiable.

What is the best part about playing negative characters?
Negative characters allowed me to explore layers that are often uncomfortable, yet deeply human - anger, insecurity, fear and twisted logic. When an audience remembers a negative character, even with hatred, it means the performance has landed.

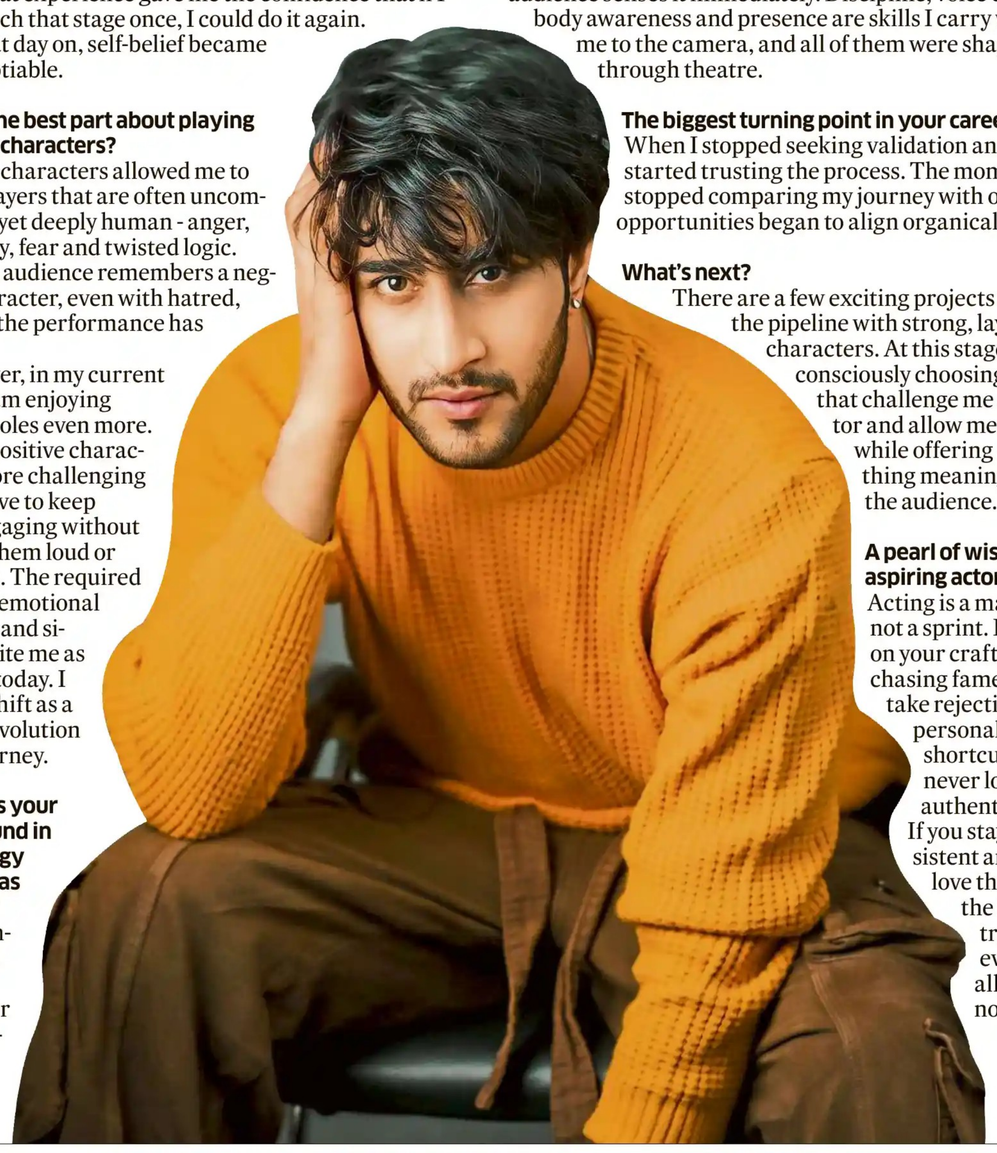
However, in my current phase, I am enjoying positive roles even more. Playing positive characters is more challenging as you have to keep them engaging without making them loud or dramatic. The required subtlety, emotional restraint and silence excite me as an actor today. I see this shift as a natural evolution in my journey.

How does your background in psychology help you as an actor?
I try to understand human behaviour at a deeper level. Beyond research, life itself has been my biggest teacher. Personal experiences, failures and growth have shaped my approach to a character. I believe acting is not just about technique it is about how deeply you have lived.

A skill you've recently picked up during the prep for a role?
Observation. I have consciously started observing how people behave when they are uncomfortable, insecure or emotionally exposed - their pauses, body language and eye movements. These small details bring honesty and realism to a performance.

TV, OTT or silver screen?
For me, content matters more than the platform. OTT has opened doors for depth and experimentation, television teaches discipline and consistency, and the silver screen offers an unmatched cinematic scale. A strong story makes the medium irrelevant.

What is your biggest takeaway from theatre that holds you in good stead?
Theatre taught me honesty. On stage, you cannot lie - the audience senses it immediately. Discipline, voice control, body awareness and presence are skills I carry with me to the camera, and all of them were shaped through theatre.



The biggest turning point in your career?
When I stopped seeking validation and started trusting the process. The moment I stopped comparing my journey with others, opportunities began to align organically.

What's next?
There are a few exciting projects in the pipeline with strong, layered characters. At this stage, I am consciously choosing roles that challenge me as an actor and allow me to grow while offering something meaningful to the audience.

A pearl of wisdom for aspiring actors...
Acting is a marathon, not a sprint. Focus on your craft before chasing fame. Don't take rejections personally, avoid shortcuts and never lose your authenticity. If you stay consistent and truly love the work, the industry will eventually take notice.

> When an audience remembers a negative character, even with hatred, it means the performance has landed

> Theatre taught me honesty. On stage, you cannot lie - the audience senses it immediately. Discipline, voice control, body awareness and presence are skills I carry with me to the camera, and all of them were shaped through theatre

Enhance your hearing for quality life

Dr Sathya Ranna, Founder Director, **Shreya Group of Hearing Clinics**, and a pioneer in the field of private hearing aid dispensing with associated rehabilitation services, explains why hearing loss occurs and how it can be mitigated with state-of-the-art hearing aids the clinic offers

Noise cannot be avoided. However, try to minimise the amount of time spent around noise or wear protection. Be aware of damaging noises such as lawn mowers, freeway traffic, airport traffic, subways, pubs, loud movie theatres and overcrowded public areas. If you have to raise your voice to be heard by someone within arm's length, the noise is too loud.

Keep the volume of your iPod or radio at a moderate level. If your work involves loud machinery, always wear protective earplugs or earmuffs. If you live near a busy road and find traffic noise disturbing at night, consider sleeping earplugs.

State-of-the-art technology at Shreya
Shreya Hearing Clinic has branches across Karnataka and Telangana, and helps people overcome hearing loss induced by noise, age-related or other causes. The clinics offer the latest technology with Bluetooth and surround sound, and object-oriented sound systems, to ensure you hear remarkably well even in noisy or complicated situations.

Revolutionary hearing aids
Hearing aids come in many different styles - digital hearing aids, iPhone hearing aids, rechargeable hearing aids. Each device looks and feels different. They come in a number of sizes from the invisible-in-canal to a mini receiver-in-canal.

Shreya Hearing Clinic offers advanced hearing aids which encourage you to follow an active lifestyle. Today, hearing aids are mini-computers for your ears, driven by algorithms and AI base. Shreya Hearing Clinic also offers pioneering hearing aids that monitor the brain and body activity and provide convenient features to simplify your life.

Benefits of hearing aids
- Reduced mental fatigue
- Decreased feeling of isolation and depression
- Improved ability to do several things at once
- Improved memory, attention and focus
- Improved communication skills
- Enjoy life

Dr Sathya Ranna

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Ageing Is Inevitable. Living with Urinary Problems Is Not

At 54, Rajesh (name changed) considered himself healthy and active. Yet, frequent urination especially at night had become a part of his daily life. Disturbed sleep, interrupted travel plans, and constant restroom visits were inconveniences he accepted as a normal consequence of ageing. Like many men, he never considered seeking medical advice. He finally consulted a urologist, and was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate. With treatment, his symptoms improved significantly.

Rajesh's case highlights an important message **'urinary problems need not be an inevitable part of ageing, and most can be effectively managed with timely medical care'.**

"Many men consider urinary problems such as frequent urination, difficulty passing urine, urine leakage, recurrent infections, or waking up multiple times at night to be a normal part of ageing. However, these symptoms often point to underlying conditions such as ***prostate enlargement, overactive bladder, urinary tract infections, kidney stones, or even prostate cancer.*** *The good news is that most of these conditions are treatable or manageable with timely medical intervention. Seeking a urological evaluation as soon as symptoms appear can prevent complications, improve quality of life, and help men maintain their health and independence as they age,"* says **Dr. Sreedhar Reddy, Senior Urologist** at Apollo Spectra Hospital, Koramangala.

Dr. Sreedhar also emphasizes that among the various urological conditions seen in men over 50, **Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)** or enlargement of the prostate is one of the most common. The prostate gland, located below the bladder, tends to increase in size with age and can press against the urinary passage, affecting urine flow. Common symptoms include frequent urination, particularly at night, sudden urgency, difficulty starting urination, a weak urine stream, and a sensation of incomplete bladder emptying.

While these symptoms are often dismissed as signs of ageing, they can have a significant impact on sleep, daily activities, travel, and overall well-being. Fortunately, most cases of BPH can be effectively managed with medications. For patients with more severe symptoms, advanced treatment options such as **minimally invasive procedures, laser prostate surgery, and endoscopic techniques offer safe, effective and faster relief.**

The good news is that modern urology offers highly advanced diagnostic and treatment options. **Tests such as uroflowmetry, ultrasound, PSA screening, MRI, and endoscopic evaluations help doctors accurately diagnose the cause of symptoms.** Treatment may involve medications, lifestyle changes, minimally invasive procedures, laser surgeries, or robotic-assisted surgery for selected conditions.

As life expectancy increases, healthy ageing is about more than simply living longer - it is about maintaining comfort, independence, and quality of life. Frequent urination, disturbed sleep, urgency, leakage, or difficulty passing urine are not inconveniences that must be endured. They are symptoms that deserve attention.

On the occasion of Men's Health Week, Apollo Spectra Hospital is conducting special urology consultation sessions for men above 40 years. The initiative offers access to expert evaluation for prostate and urinary health concerns, along with a *20% discount on consultations and 25% discount on diagnostic tests.*

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Wknd. DELIGHT

Ube goes well with Indian desserts too. It blends well with milk and ghee that are foundations in many local sweets

RIGHT FIT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

CULINARY DELIGHT

Native to the Philippines, Ube has become a popular ingredient in the recent years. It's naturally pleasant colour and flavour make it a hit in many desserts and ice cream. It's an easy way to impress your guests at home - just let its colour do all the talking!

HEALTHY TREAT

The attractive colour apart, Ube is known for its health benefits. Its potassium content supports muscle function and regulates blood pressure. Its antioxidants are believed to reduce inflammation. Its essential vitamins promote skin health and boost immunity. Ube is a treat with health benefits too.

Allure of purple

If you've been drooling over delightful purple-coloured dishes at restaurants of late, that's mostly the eye-catching delicious Ube or purple Yam from Philippines and not some artificial colours added to dishes. It has taken the dessert world by storm with its naturally-vivid violet hue and delicate flavour with hints of vanilla, pistachio and sweet potato. No wonder Ube has become a favourite among pastry chefs, home bakers, and dessert lovers worldwide.

A staple in Filipino cuisine, Ube is more than just a trendy ingredient. It has long been used in festive sweets, cakes, jams and frozen treats. Its unique colour adds visual drama, while its creamy texture and subtle sweetness make it ideal for desserts. Now available in India, the nation has fondly taken to this new delicacy, which is interestingly, a yam.

Ube grows underground like potato and sweet potato and is commonly cultivated throughout tropical regions. Though it is often confused with taro or purple sweet potato, Ube has a distinctly smoother texture and a more fragrant, dessert-friendly taste. Once boiled and mashed, it becomes rich and velvety, perfect for transforming into sweet creations or can be consumed on its own.

Amazing possibilities

From soft sponge cakes to silky ice cream and rich jams, Ube brings colour, flavour and cultural heritage to the kitchen. Its popularity continues to grow because it combines natural beauty with comforting sweetness, making it a hit, especially among kids. Whether you are exploring Filipino cuisine or simply looking for a show-stopping dessert ingredient, Ube is a delightful place to begin. One bite, and it is easy to understand why this vibrant purple yam has captured the imagination of dessert lovers around the world. Here are three purple delights you can try at home.

You can add flavour, taste and colour to your desserts with ube. **Swatee Jog** presents three recipes you can try this weekend

Ube Cake

This treat is one of the most loved Filipino desserts. Light, fluffy and beautifully purple, it is ideal for birthdays and special occasions.

What you need

For the cake:

- Two cups of all-purpose flour
- Two teaspoons of baking powder
- Half a teaspoon of salt
- One cup of sugar (if not using condensed milk)
- Four eggs / one small tin of condensed milk
- Half a cup of butter, softened
- One cup of Ube halaya or mashed Ube
- Half a cup of milk
- One teaspoon of vanilla extract

For the frosting:

- One cup of whipping cream
- Three tablespoons of powdered sugar
- Two tablespoons of Ube halaya

Preparation

Pre-heat the oven to 180-degrees C and grease two eight-inch cake tins. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Mix in Ube, milk and vanilla. Fold in the dry ingredients gently. Divide the batter between tins and bake for 30–35 minutes. Cool completely. Whip cream with sugar and Ube halaya until soft peaks form. Layer and frost the cake. Decorate with coconut flakes or fresh berries for an elegant finish.

Creamy **Ube** Ice Cream

It's luscious, aromatic and wonderfully smooth. The purple colour is all the more alluring.

What you need

- Two cups of heavy cream
- One cup each of condensed milk and Ube halaya
- One teaspoon of vanilla extract
- A pinch of salt

Preparation

Blend all the ingredients until smooth. Pour into a freezer-safe container. Freeze for 6–8 hours, stirring once halfway for extra creaminess. Top with roasted nuts or wafer cones for added texture. Scoop and serve.

Traditional **Ube** Halaya

It's the classic dessert that forms the base for many Ube recipes.

What you need

- 500 gm of fresh Ube, peeled and cubed
- One can of condensed milk
- Half a cup of evaporated milk
- Quarter cup of butter
- Half a cup of sugar (optional, to taste)

Preparation

Boil the Ube until tender - about 20–25 minutes. Mash or blend until completely smooth. Place the mashed Ube in a non-stick pan. Add condensed milk, evaporated milk, butter and sugar. Cook over low heat, stirring continuously, for 20–30 minutes - until thick and glossy. Transfer to a greased dish and cool. Enjoy chilled on its own or use it as a filling for cakes, as a frosting for pastries or as a spread on breads.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?!
I'M TRAINING...
YOU SAID EVASIVE TACTICS ARE USEFUL IN COMBAT
GREG + MORT WALKER
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11/29

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUEOD

TODIT

MFLBUE

GNYURH

Today's Guest JUMBLER is TAUHID BONDIA creator of CRABGRASS

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

_____ FOR _____

Answers

DOUSE DITTO FUMBLE HUNGRY

Miles' dreams of being a pilot are over since he'll soon be — GROUNDED FOR LIFE

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HITORI-150

1	2	8	7	7	3	8	7
8	1	2	8	4	5	7	6
6	3	7	5	7	8	7	4
2	8	8	5	7	7	4	8
8	5	7	2	3	4	1	8
5	4	8	1	4	6	8	3
7	8	3	6	1	8	5	7
8	6	6	4	8	1	2	8

SOLUTION for HITORI-150

■	2	1	■	4	■	6	8
7	5	■	1	6	3	8	■
3	■	6	■	1	■	4	5
8	1	4	3	2	7	5	■
■	4	■	7	■	8	■	2
4	7	8	■	5	■	3	6
6	■	5	4	8	2	1	■
■	8	3	■	7	■	2	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 151

EASY

ACROSS
1 Tantalised (6)
7 Intrinsic (8)
8 Long tube (4)
10 Red wine (6)
11 Discussion (6)
14 Agent (3)
16 Post off (5)
17 Father (4)
19 Putrefy (2,3)
21 Buffalo (5)
22 Golf term (5)
23 Method (4)
26 Student (5)
28 Cushion (3)
29 Rupture (6)
30 Salty (6)
31 Counterpart (4)
32 Reasonable (8)
33 Snout beetle (6)

DOWN
1 Deceptions (6)
2 Party (6)
3 Slimming plan (4)
4 Old soldier (7)
5 Reverie (5)
6 Precipitation (5)
8 Young salmon (4)
9 Vitality (3)
12 Sleeping place (3)
13 Timorous (5)
15 Biblical prophet (5)
18 Edition (5)
19 Concert (3)
20 Young male (3)
21 Country (7)
22 Rubbish receptacle (3)
23 Spite (6)
24 Norse god (4)
25 Complete view (6)
26 Stage (5)
27 Practical joke (5)
28 Dog's foot (3)
30 Simmer (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 The idea that meat is about £1 (6)
7 Even the least bit interested in being TV controller of programmes? (8)
8 The only possibility is to lose (4)
10 Regretted not holding out, but being overtaken by disaster (6)
11 Possibly six-sevenths foreign, but take no notice (6)
14 Friends may do this together, but not all together! (3)
16 Poetry, maybe, can be graceful just to look at (5)
17 Finish flying (4)
19 The beast gets me in a state! (5)
21 Ticket prices (5)
22 We're all in this race (5)
23 Wound associated with hunting (4)
26 Up to now, one has a right to a seat (2,3)
28 Nowadays includes something to eat (3)
29 The reviewer gives it credit, I see (6)
30 Story heard in a moment (6)
31 Christabel's boy (4)
32 Activities in which one has some catching up to do? (8)
33 Be quick to get out of Athens (6)

DOWN
1 Something rolled out for fun (on staves) (6)
2 Flattened by a hard man (6)
3 Nominally a loud leftist (4)
4 Looks amazed at the eyewear (7)
5 As a boarder, be sociable? (3,2)
6 They go round endlessly creating a bit of a mystery (5)
8 An indication of interest in astrology (4)
9 Allowed a degree of double talk (3)
12 Love letter to Northern Ireland (3)
13 Like rosin, it can make reins flexible (5)
15 Revolutionary construction for a tram (5)
18 He doesn't show his true feelings (5)
19 Mechanical part of a camera (3)
20 Females bring some woe to them (3)
21 Angry at mere promises of payment for a coat (7)
22 Bowler hard at it? (3)
23 Documents a bit personal to father? (6)
24 Popular figure said to be idle (4)
25 It's in Kent, wild, this feline (6)
26 Opportunity for a policeman in the southeast (5)
27 Showing great spirit, that is, among young swimmers (5)
28 A spider needs a site for it (3)
30 Foolish redhead and a sort of blonde (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 151

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Be-Li-ef 7, Remotely 8, Sole 10, Ru-in-ed 11, Ignore 14, Get 16, Lines 17, Land 19, Ca-me-l 21, Fares 22, Human 23, Pink 26, So fa-R 28, Wad 29, Cr-if-ic 30, Report 31, Abel

DOWN: 1, Debate 14, Rep 16, Remit 17, Sire 19, Go bad 21, Bison 22, Bogey 23, Mode 26, Pupil 28, Pad 29, Hernia 30, Saline 31, Twin 32, Sensible 33, Weevil.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Teased 7, Integral 8, Pipe 10, Claret 11, Debate 14, Rep 16, Remit 17, Sire 19, Go bad 21, Bison 22, Bogey 23, Mode 26, Pupil 28, Pad 29, Hernia 30, Saline 31, Twin 32, Sensible 33, Weevil.

DOWN: 1, Tricks 2, Soiree 3, Diet 4, Veteran 5, Dream 6, Sleet 8, Parr 9, Pep 12, Bed 13, Timid 15, Moses 18, Issue 19, Gig 20, Boy 21, Bolivia 22, Bin 23, Malice 24, Odin 25, Eyeful 26, Phase 27, Prank 28, Paw 30, Stew.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. STYLE

A go-to ensemble this is season is a dark raincoat over regular-fit dark trousers, tailored shirt in a pastel shade and a classic black umbrella

RAIN WEAR

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

STYLE WITH RAINWEAR

Why not make rainwear a fashion accessory? Go for a raincoat that is structured and in a colour that complements your attire for the day. You can use your raincoat to bring in a pop of bold colour to brighten up a grey, rainy day. A trench-style raincoat makes a style statement.

UMBRELLA OF FASHION

While the usual, formal black umbrella serves you well on your way to office, add a dash of colour with one in a bold hue on weekends. You could do with a spot of colour to cheer you up on a water-logged walkway on a rainy day. Against sun or rain, an umbrella can be a style accessory too.

Colour Code

Hues for the rains

We have already had a couple of heavy showers and the temperature has cooled a bit. The monsoon is around the corner. The change in season calls for a relook at the colours around you. Brighter hues in some places and pops of warm shades in some are called for. Colours help lift your mood on rainy days.

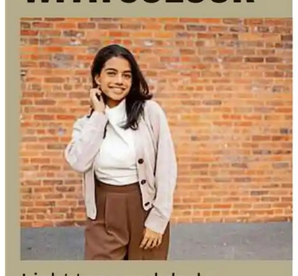
Time for jewels

This is a good time to go in for jewel tones. They work better than pastel shades in your interiors. For cheerful interiors on grey monsoon days, bring in some deep emeralds, dark blues and rich burgundy. You can use these shades in your furnishing. Window treatments in dark colours work too.

POP OF BRIGHTS

If you prefer muted tones or pastel shades for your formal attire in office, get in a pop of a warm colour to lift the mood. A tie in bright red is a sure winner. You can even bring in a pop of bright colour with accessories such as cufflinks.

WATERPROOF WITH COLOUR



Light tops and dark trousers are the order of the day. Dark colours such as charcoal black, navy blue and mustard hide water stains better. If you have outdoor work daily for long spells and bound to get caught in a shower often, these shades won't give you that drenched look.

Prints hide stains

Go for attire with prints rather than something in solid colours. This is especially so if you are out in the open daily. Commuting around the city in the monsoon is punishing for delicate clothing. Prints hide stains common in the rains well and will help you carry off a formal look with ease.

REINVENTION IS THE WAY TO SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Responsible indulgence in fashion is a need of the hour, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

As the fashion industry races ahead with endless 'drops', discounts and trends that change almost overnight, the environmental cost of wardrobes is becoming impossible to ignore. Mountains of discarded clothing now fill landfills across the world. Millions of garments are over-produced every year, many never even reaching consumers before being destroyed or dumped. Behind the glamour lies one of the planet's most polluting industries.

Fashion today is often driven by impulse rather than need. Many buy more than they wear, wear clothes fewer times than ever before and discard garments long before their natural lifespan is over. Synthetic fabrics release microplastics into oceans, textile dyeing contaminates rivers and cheap fast fashion encourages a dangerous culture of disposability. Every over-flowing wardrobe has a hidden environmental cost.

Yet, the solution may not lie in grand gestures alone. Real change begins with individual choices. One of the simplest and most effective ideas is exchanging clothes with friends and family. Clothing swap gatherings are slowly becoming fashionable in themselves - allowing garments to find a second life while refreshing wardrobes without unnecessary buying. Vintage jackets, heirloom sarees, shawls and accessories often gain more character with time, not less.

Repurposing old textiles is another meaningful step. Across India, damaged sarees, old dupattas and forgotten handcrafted fabrics are being transformed into jackets, dresses, kaftans and bags. A Banarasi border can become an elegant collar. A Kanjeevaram saree can evolve into a dramatic evening coat. These garments carry memory, craftsmanship and emotional value that mass-produced fashion can never replicate.

Trend Talk

A growing number of conscious designers are championing this movement. Designers such as Susan Fernandes and several independent Indian labels are helping clients rework old, expensive garments into wearable contemporary fashion rather than allowing them to remain unused in cupboards. This is not merely recycling - it is preservation through reinvention.

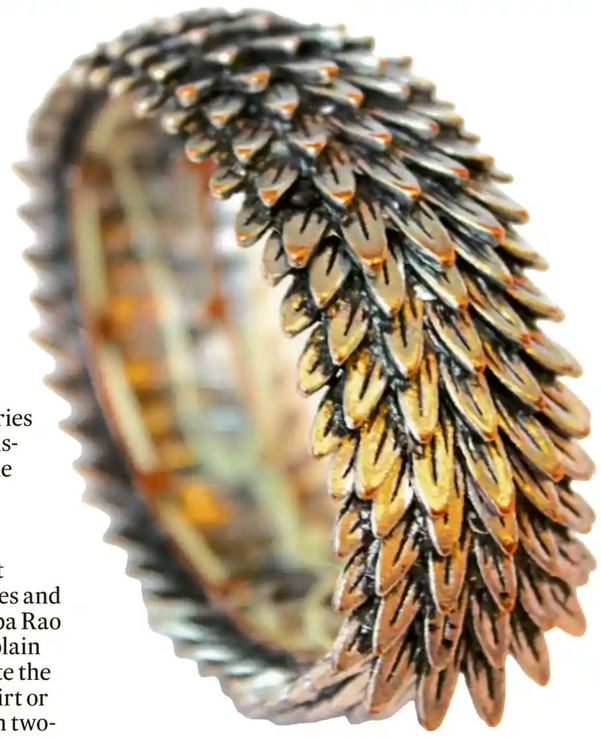
Buying less but buying better is perhaps the most important lesson of all. Investing in timeless, well-crafted garments that last for years is ultimately more sustainable than repeatedly purchasing low-cost disposable fashion. Quality fabrics, classic silhouettes and artisan-made textiles age beautifully and often become more valuable over time.

India already possesses many of the answers the world is searching for. Our traditions of handloom, heirloom dressing, textile reuse and passing garments down generations were sustainable long before sustainability became fashionable terminology.

Perhaps the future of fashion is not about constantly buying something new. True luxury now lies in respecting what we already own, and wearing it with pride, creativity and responsibility.

PICS COURTESY: SUSAN FERNANDES AND PRASAD BIDAPA MODELS

Big Bangle Theory



Stacking over-sized bangles has made a comeback, writes **Deepa Natarajan Lobo**

From over-sized gold cuffs and jade bangles to sculptural kadas and geometric wristwear, chunky bangles are once again becoming one of fashion world's biggest statement accessories. While bold bangles have always existed in vogue, fashionistas believe their comeback in 2026 feels more experimental, artistic and style-driven than ever before.

Fashion consultant Deepa Rao and stylist Nidhi Kataria share some tips on how to style chunky bangles in a modern, balanced and effortless way.

Make them the focal point

A common mistake people make while styling over-sized jewellery is trying to wear every statement piece together which often makes the overall look cluttered, points out stylist Nidhi Kataria. Instead, she advises making the bangles the hero accessory while allowing the rest of the styling to remain subtle. "Let the other accessories play a supporting role by creating distance between them and keeping the overall look clean," she says.

Minimal outfits work best

Statement bangles tend to stand out beautifully against simple silhouettes and clean cuts. Fashion consultant Deepa Rao loves pairing chunky bangles with plain outfits because they instantly elevate the entire look. "Whether it's a plain shirt or solid colours, a single bangle or even two-three stacked together instantly elevates the outfit," she says.

Nidhi also highlights that minimalist dressing creates the perfect canvas for over-sized accessories. "When the dress is minimalist, chunky bangles not only work beautifully but also add a strong design element to the entire look," she says. According to her, even a single over-sized gold cuff paired with a tailored suit or plain dress can completely transform the outfit.

Balanced colour palette

While stacking bangles continues to remain trendy, fashionistas suggest maintaining visual harmony. Deepa recommends staying within the same colour family instead of mixing too many contrasting shades or finishes.

"Don't overdo different colours. Tone it down with textures and keep it cohesive."

She also notes that colourful outfits work better with simpler bangles, such as plain wooden cuffs, while monochrome or understated clothing can handle chunkier metallic or textured designs. "Plain outfits can carry bold chunky bangles beautifully," she says.

Experiment with sizes, not textures

According to Deepa, balance and proportion are extremely important while stacking bangles. Rather than mixing too many textures together, she suggests playing with widths and sizes for a more polished effect. "Different sizes work well while stacking, but don't complicate the textures," she explains. She also notes that styling depends heavily on the outfit, fabric and overall mood of the look.

Boho-inspired, geometric shapes

This season's chunky bangles are becoming far more artistic and unconventional. Deepa says boho-inspired styles, sculptural pieces and geometric shapes are especially popular in 2026. "Boho is very much in this season. Geometric shapes, square bangles, jade pieces and huge stone bangles are trending," she says.

At the same time, classic metallics continue to trend too. Gold and silver bangles remain timeless favourites, while designers are increasingly experimenting with mixed metals and structural cuffs that feel fashion-forward.

Both believe accessories are no longer just finishing touches - they are now becoming the centrepiece of an outfit. "One bangle can completely change the look of an outfit. It's all about how you wear it and pair it," says Deepa.

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WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

STAY SAFE

Choose your place of stay with care and after thorough research. Ensure the place has adequate back-up power and does not get cut off in case of heavy rains and flooding. Carry some ready food mixes just in case you don't get the menu you are used to at the hotel. Plan for a back-up hotel too.

EAT RIGHT

A monsoon holiday is not the time to experiment with street food. Eat what you are used to and at hygienic places. Freshly-cooked, hot food with bottled water is advisable through your holiday. Infections from contaminated food and water are common in the monsoon.

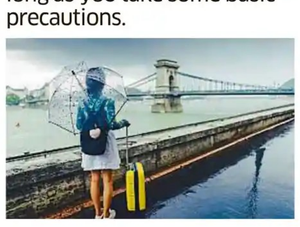
TRAVEL TIME

Keep your travel schedule flexible, especially if you have connecting flights, as delays are common with rains disrupting traffic and transport

Monsoon **Holiday**

Take a break

Who said the rainy season isn't fun for travellers? Many states and destinations advertise monsoon holidays. The rain and scenic beauty of these locations beckon travellers from all over the country. Holidaying in the monsoon season is fun too as long as you take some basic precautions.



CHECK FORECAST

The rains may turn out to be too heavy for any outdoor activity. So, check the forecast carefully before planning your holiday. Also, check for any alerts issued against possible floods or landslides. Don't ignore Met warnings. You don't want to be stuck with the roads closed.

WATERPROOF GEAR

This is a crucial aspect of your holiday. From your bags to boots, make sure as many items as possible are waterproof. Pack only quick-drying clothes. Let fashion take the backseat on a monsoon holiday. Go for only functional and rain-ready gear.

Fit footwear

You need to wear appropriate footwear on a monsoon holiday. Get anti-skid footwear as you will be walking on wet surfaces. Waterproof shoes designed for wet conditions will serve you well on these trips. Boots are advisable as they keep your feet and ankles safe.

MOSQUITO PROOFING

You don't want to get bitten and risk vector-borne diseases while on a holiday. Use a mosquito repellent cream on your face, neck, arms and legs. Repeat the application if it gets washed away in the rain. Sleep in a mosquito net and avoid mosquito-infested outdoors to relax in.

Give your mind a break

Living with stress and work pressure round-the-clock hampers your creativity and productivity, leaving you at a disadvantage in this highly competitive world. Yoga therapist **Krupa Patel** has four simple ways to stop your racing mind and live in the present

In today's highly competitive world, stress and digital overload keep people overactive. A large number of people are consequently anxious all the time, short tempered and keyed up. This has a negative impact on life. It hampers both creativity and productivity.

Many people find themselves stuck in a vicious cycle. While the pressures they face suppress their creative juices and they are also less productive, the demand is to deliver better and more to succeed in today's competitive world, in turn leading to stress and related health issues.

Mind **Matters**

Adopt a pet

A pet enhances your emotional quotient by fostering a non-judgemental connection. While you need to present your best self all the time in office and to clients, a pet makes no such demands. It accepts you just as you are, giving you a break from the high-pressure work-life.

Spending time with your pet gives you a break from the constant posturing you do all day. Also, the pet demands your attention and concentration as you need to read its subtle unspoken cues. Focussing on its expressions and mannerisms brings you from the thoughts centered around your work to the present. It also helps you train your mind to be in the present and not race around uncontrollably, thus helping you unwind and destress.

Tune in

Many people these days are less expressive because of the fear of being judged. It is also felt that one can be vulnerable to being labelled incompetent or weak in an office environment. Many people keep their creativity and thoughts bottled up and find no one to share their ideas with. It pushes one into a stressful cocoon.

Singing or playing a musical instrument is a powerful emotional release. It helps you release all the locked up negative emotions such as grief, disappointment etc that have been suppressed. Playing an instrument is a great work-out for the mind as it demands coordination between vision, hearing, touch and fine motor skills.

Music therefore equips you with a strong mind that can switch on and off from the humdrum and pressures of daily work-life. It also enhances your creativity and gives you that competitive edge.

Connect with Nature

This is a simple and very effective way to reduce stress. Greenery creates a relaxing environment whether indoors or outdoors. Spend some time daily in a park or by a lake. The greenery and waterbody help you bring about a connect with Nature. This in turn calms your mind and helps you destress.

It is believed that spending time with Nature reduces anxiety, regulates blood pressure and improves your mood. Fresh air, the sounds of birds chirping and flowing water, and the sight of colourful flowers, take your mind off the worries and fears you deal with. This distraction promotes mindfulness and helps you live in the moment. A short walk in a park or around a waterbody will rejuvenate you, enhance your mental clarity and lead to better emotional well-being.

Home garden

Set up a small garden at home – even a kitchen garden is good enough. The simple act of caring for plants – watering, pruning dry leaves and re-potting – is no rocket science and does not take any creative thinking. The simple routine of tending to your garden interrupts your racing thoughts and gives your mind a break daily.

The pause from the rigours of work helps you reset and gives you that much-needed rejuvenation.

Is your home ready for the rains?

Jayanthi Madhukar explains how you can keep your home fresh and free of odours through the monsoon months

Home **Front**

All set for the monsoon season? Dampness, stale odours and humidity have a way of settling into furnishings long before the season is in full swing. But with a few practical changes, your home interiors can feel lighter, fresher and far more comfortable through weeks of rains.

Curtains and upholstery

Home furnishings are usually the first to bear the effects of monsoon weather, though they are also among the easiest to refresh. Heavy fabrics such as velvet tend to absorb moisture quickly, making them prone to mildew and lingering odours. Silk, though elegant, can be equally difficult to maintain during humid months, trapping dust and dampness with ease.

Instead, the season calls for lighter, breathable materials that can withstand frequent washing. Linen, cotton and sheer fabrics work particularly well because they dry quickly and allow air and natural light to filter into the room. Old cotton sarees, especially those in soft prints or bright colours, can also be repurposed into curtains, instantly changing the mood of a space while remaining practical for the weather.

For windows facing balconies or open terraces, a thin waterproof lining stitched behind curtains can help protect the fabric from wind-blown drizzle. Double curtain rods are another useful addition, allowing sheer curtains to remain drawn during the day for airflow and privacy even when skies stay overcast.

Upholstery requires more attention during the rains. While replacing sofa or dining-chair fabric may not always be practical, slipcovers in natural materials can make maintenance easier. Fabrics with tighter weaves are generally better-suited to humid weather because they trap less moisture and dust. Keeping upholstered furniture slightly away from walls also improves air circulation and helps prevent damp patches from forming unnoticed. Sofas, cushions and upholstered headboards should ideally be vacuumed at least once a week to prevent fungal growth and musty smells.

Cushion covers are perhaps the simplest seasonal update. Bright cotton or linen covers not only lift the mood of a room during the monsoon days but can also be washed and changed frequently without much effort.

Carpet care

Bare floors are often the most practical choice during the rainy season, especially in homes where water and mud are frequently tracked indoors. But for those who want rugs and carpets, choosing the right materials becomes important.

Washable rugs and lightweight dhurries are easier to maintain because they dry quickly and can be cleaned frequently. Cotton, recycled polyester and synthetic blends are generally better-suited to monsoon conditions than wool or silk. Flat-weave rugs work especially well because they absorb less moisture and dry faster if they get wet.

Smaller rugs are also more practical during this season, as they can be lifted, aired and sun-dried whenever there is a break in the rain. If woollen carpets must be used, tightly woven versions are preferable to thick high-pile designs, which tend to trap humidity and odours for longer periods. Absorbent runners near entrances and hallways can help contain muddy footprints and rainwater before they spread across the house. Good ventilation remains essential in any room with a carpet or rug, as stagnant moisture is often what causes lingering smells.

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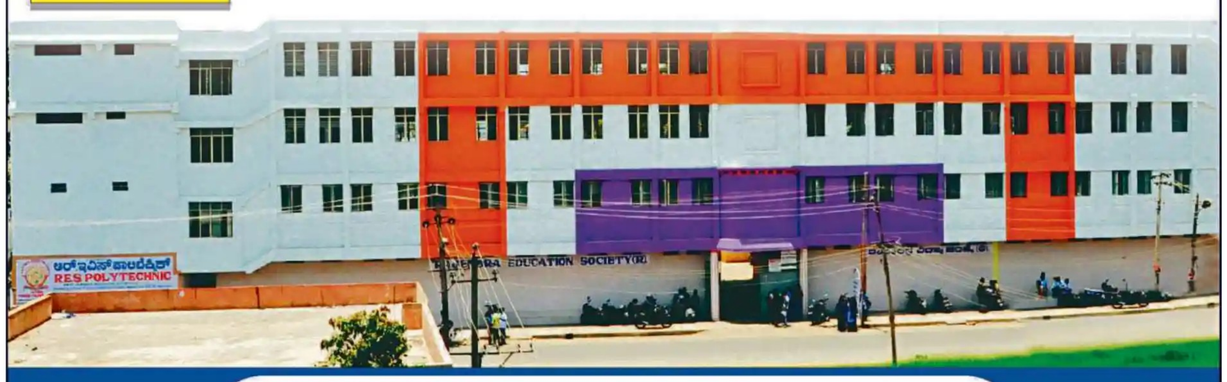

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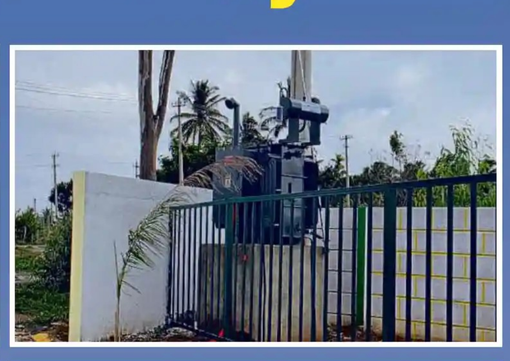

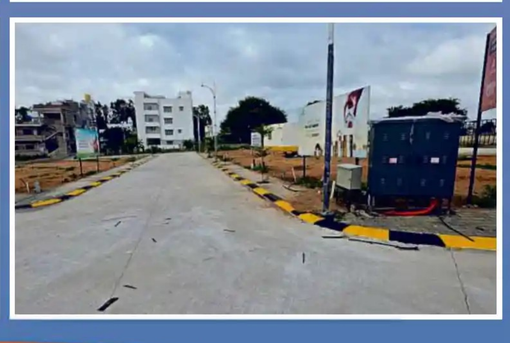

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BDA 20X25 Ground First Floor House East Facing, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Rs. 1.25Cr Contact: 9739957911

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PERSONAL

Announcements

CORRIGENDUM
Reference our advertisement published in this newspaper 07 June 2026, captioned **"APS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING"** in Prajavani & Deccan Herald News Paper. Kindly note that the contact phone no. mistakely published +91 94484 52808 Instead of that consider this no. **+91 94484 52508.**

Change of Name

MY SON, Siddarth Skandan, residing at #311, Sri Lorven Castle, 5th Main, 7th Cross, Malleshpalya, Bengaluru-560075, shall henceforth be known as Siddarth Skandan Ganesan, vide affidavit dated 03 June 2026 sworn before Notary A. R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore. – Ganesan Kandasamy (Father).

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMITHRA KAVALOOR** W/o. Manohar. M.Mangalore, R/at Basaveshwara Nilaya, 1st floor, 9th 'A' Cross, Sevanthi Road, Ashokanagar, P.O. Kuvempunagar, Tumkur-572103, have changed my name to **SUMITHRA** vide affidavit dated 10.06.2026 before Notary Sri, S.I. Balaguru, Bengaluru-84.

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ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್

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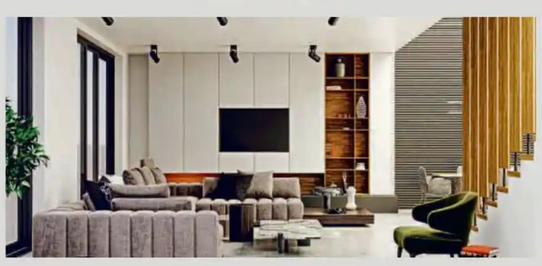

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